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THE NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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THE NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY was founded in 1862 by a representative group of New Haven citizens. As stated in the Constitution adopted by the Society, revised in 1965:

"The object of the Society shall be the collection, preservation and publication of historical and genealogical matter relating to the early settlement and subsequent history, especially of New Haven and its vicinity, and incidentally of other portions of the United States."

The museum and library of the Society are open to the public. There is a fee of $1 to non-members for use of the library; the museum is open free of charge. In addition to the Whitney Avenue building, the Society owns the Pardee-Morris House at 325 Lighthouse Road, Morris Cove, New Haven. Built originally in 1685, it was burned during the British invasion in 1779. Rebuilt at once, it incorporates surviving portions of the older structure. The Pardee-Morris House is now restored and furnished appropriately and is open free of charge to the public during the summer months.

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Cover: Four of the five buildings occupied by the Society during its 119-year history. Clockwise from left: the English Memorial; City Hall; Old State House; present headquarters, 114 Whitney Avenue. Not shown: Insurance Building.

This issue of the Journal was made possible by a generous gift from Philip H. English.

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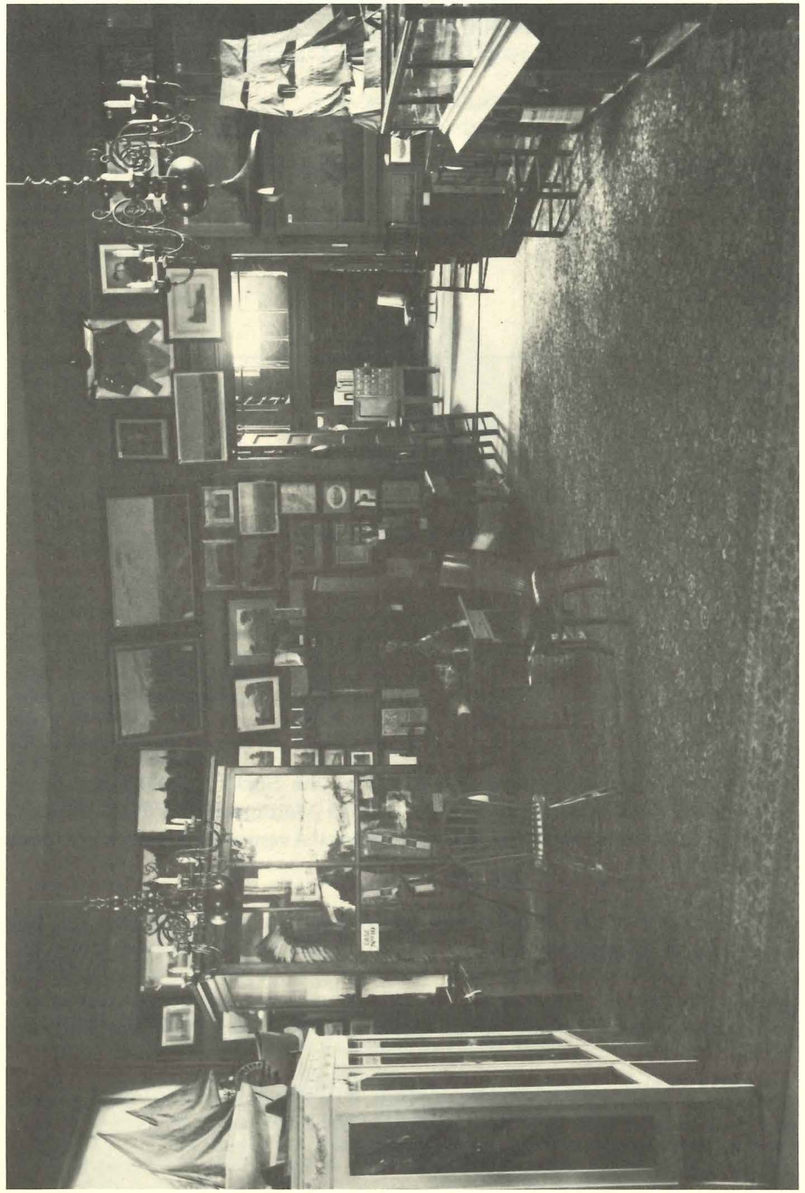


Interior of the English Memorial, 144 Grove Street, built in 1893.

New Haven Colony Historical Society: 1862–1980

by Stephen Dibble

In the New City Hall: 1862-1880

New Haven's City Hall, overlooking the Green from Church Street, had just been completed in the fall of 1862. Meeting in their new chamber for the first time on Monday evening, October 6, the Court of Common Council received a memorial suggesting a new venture to be housed in space still unoccupied in the new building. The petition, signed by Thomas R. Trowbridge and twenty-two others, proposed an association for the purpose of collecting and preserving documents and relics illustrative of the past and current history of ancient New Haven Colony. Furthermore, the organization as a "useful public project," with a membership "open to all who may wish to unite with it," might appropriately be quartered in City Hall.

The memorial had been the inspiration of an educator, Horace Day. With a keen sense of people, place and timing, he had previously gathered a group of community leaders at 20 Elm Street, the home of William A. Reynolds, a prominent broker descended from John Davenport, New Haven's founder and first spiritual leader. The Reynolds residence, in fact, stood on the cellar of the Davenport manse. There being an overlapping of this group with the Common Council, it is understandable that the petition was granted. The Mayor and Aldermen, on behalf of the City, and the Selectmen, for the Town, gave "the use of the room and vault on the third floor of the building . . . so long as said City and Town have no occasion to occupy the same, it being understood that the City and the Town shall be at no expense in fitting up said rooms."

At a second meeting at the Reynolds house, a committee was appointed to draft articles of association and to call a public meeting. Accordingly, the New Haven newspapers soon carried a summons to all interested residents from five city leaders: Henry White, a senior attorney; Leonard Bacon, minister of Center Church; Frederick Croswell, a judge; Henry Bronson, a physician and professor; and, of course, Horace Day, superintendent of schools.

Mayor Harmanus M. Welch presided at the founding in his office on November 14, 1862. Twenty-eight were present. A constitution was adopted providing for a

1862 New Haven Colony Historical Society organized at City Hall, November 14.
1863 NHCHS chartered by Connecticut General Assembly, June 17.
1869 Ezra Stiles manuscripts received.
1880 NHCHS headquarters moved to Old State House on the Green.
1884 Unveiling of Theophilus Eaton monument at Center Church by NHCHS.
1887 Paintings of *Constitution* and *Guerrier* naval battle received.
1889 Dixwell papers acquired.
NHCHS headquarters moved to Insurance Building, Chapel Street.
1891 Adjutant William Campbell monument unveiled at grave site in West Haven, July 4.
Women's committee established.
1893 Opening of English Memorial, 144 Grove Street.
1898 First bequest received from the estate of Eli Whitney II.
Cinqué portrait received from estate of Charles B. Purvis.
1900 Full-time curator and librarian retained.
1903 First endowment fund drive.
1911 Defenders' monument dedicated by NHCHS.
1915 Ingersoll papers received from the estate of Governor Charles R. Ingersoll.
1917 Publication of Volume I of New Haven *Ancient Records Series.*
1918 Pardee's Old Morris House received by bequest.
1919 Publication of Volume II, *Ancient Records Series.*
First woman elected to NHCHS board.

board of directors selected from the officers and an advisory committee. A quasi-official status for the new organization was implied in an article declaring the mayor and town clerk of New Haven (as well as the president of Yale College) to be directors *ex officio,* a provision which remains to the present. The same article designated the city aldermen and the town selectmen as members of the Society *ex officio.*

Later in the month, Mayor Welch presided over the election of officers, again in his office. Chosen were: Henry White, president; E. Edwards Beardsley, vice president; Horace Day, secretary; and William S. Charnley, treasurer. The first meeting of the board of directors convened in the city clerk's office on December 10. Bylaws to be appended to the constitution were adopted "at the rooms of the Society" just before Christmas. Then began the principal activity of the Society as mandated in the bylaws. The directors were to "provide for the reading of one or more papers upon historical subjects at each regular meeting of the Society; or for the delivery of a historical lecture—the manuscripts of which, with the consent of the authors, shall be owned and preserved by the Society." President White's inaugural paper, "The New Haven Colony," was the first of a learned series, not yet completed.

1929 Cornerstone laid at 114 Whitney Avenue, with sale of 144 Grove Street to Yale.
1931 Dedication of new English Memorial, June 10.
1938 New Haven Tercentenary coordinated from NHCHS.
1947 *New Haven, New and Old,* Scrapbook Collection, received from estate of Arnold G. Dana.
1953 *Three Centuries of New Haven,* by Rollin G. Osterweis, published under sponsorship of NHCHS.
1960 Nettleton House models received.
1962 Publication of Volume III of *Ancient Records Series.*
NHCHS Centennial awards and celebration.
Development committee appointed.
1965 Women's committee revived.
1966 Bronson Collection of glass plate negatives received.
1968 First executive director appointed, with establishment of education department
1969 Development fund-raising campaign.
1971 New Haven Afro-American Historical Society founded with NHCHS sponsorship.
1973 Eli Whitney gun factory site restoration project begun.
1975 Dedication of the Philip H. English Education Center.
1976 Bicentennial of the American Revolution exhibitions and activities.
1977 Campbell grave site conveyed to West Haven Historical Society.

The founding of the New Haven Colony Historical Society was thus accomplished in the final weeks of 1862 as the women of the New Haven Soldiers' Aid Society distributed food and fruit to the Union's sick and wounded at the General Hospital, as well as to the troops departing for the Civil War front from Camp English at City Point. This had been the year that New Haven's Ninth "Irish Regiment" had fielded Rebel guerrillas in the Louisiana bayous. The *Monitor* had bested the *Merrimac* due to the inventive genius of three Connecticut engineers, Cornelius S. Bushnell, Warren O. Nettleton and Thomas F. Rowland. New Haven's black citizens had celebrated Jubilee as slavery was gradually abolished by congressional and presidential acts, predictably supported by Congressman James E. English.

Two details in the organization of the Society, its seal and charter, were not immediately obtained. Designs for the seal were submitted by three founding members, Henry T. Blake, John W. Barber and Lemuel Punderson. In 1865, after much deliberation, the more simple device of Punderson was chosen, with the date of settlement, 1638, inside a wreath of laurel, in turn surrounded by the initial letters of the six constituent townships of New Haven Colony: New Haven, Milford, Branford, Guilford, Stamford and Southold (on Long Island).

There never was any doubt that the Society was chartered by Connecticut's General Assembly on June 17, 1863. However, the officially sealed charter was finally delivered 115 years later. James Hammond Trumbull, secretary of state in Hartford, had only recently been elected president of the Connecticut Historical Society. Perhaps he took a dim view of what might have seemed a rival organization in the co-capital. In any case, he replied rather unhelpfully to a query in the matter from Charles R. Ingersoll, pleading that he was too busy, and suggesting that the document be prepared for his seal in New Haven. After much delay the engrossed charter was sent to Hartford only to be lost. The Society's officers, without a paid staff, seem to have lacked the time and concentration to pursue the matter to completion. The board of directors for a decade appointed committees, reported progress, and finally delegated the president himself to obtain the charter. But Henry White, the busy probate and real estate attorney who "probably tried more cases, as a Committee or Arbitrator, than any other member of the Bar," stepped down from the leadership of the Society in 1873. At the last meeting over which he presided, "The employment of a salaried officer who should devote his time to the general interests of the Society was discussed." Such an officer would not be employed for some years, and it remained for a new executive director in 1978, Dr. Floyd Shumway, to obtain a sealed facsimile of the charter after discovering this administrative loose end.

From its inception the Society was inclusive in its interests and constituency. Membership was "open to all who may wish to unite with it." Its collections were to reflect the area's "current history" as well as its past. Henry White's first paper began, "The ancient Colony of New Haven is the special, although not the only field of labor of this Historical Society." Echoing these initial statements, the board of directors at their second meeting, in January 1863, authorized the president to request competent persons to prepare papers on the Irish, German and Jewish immigrant communities of New Haven. Early papers dealt with a variety of subjects including the historical status of the Negro in Connecticut, Crispus Attucks and other blacks in the American Revolution, Indian tribes within the Colony limits, the future of Africa and Africans, "Hayti," and Hawaii's government and people.

The New Haven Colony Historical Society was no exception to the general pattern of community leadership when New Haven's public life was dominated by Yankee entrepreneurs who typically had risen to wealth and political power out of humble origins. This group, which engaged the study of Robert A. Dahl in *Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City,* was well represented in the Society's membership at its founding, and subsequently. Among the 232 members listed between 1862 and 1865 appeared the names of Eli Whitney Blake, whose stone-crusher revolutionized highway and railroad construction; James Brewster, carriage manufacturer; Cornelius S. Bushnell, whose many projects included the radically experimental warship *Monitor;* Joseph E. Sheffield, who first connected New Haven and New York by railroad; Benjamin Silliman, who "cracked" petroleum, discovering the basic process for producing gasoline and other derivatives; and Eli Whitney,

PRESIDENTS OF THE NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1862–1873	Henry White
1873–1884	E. Edwards Beardsley
1884–1896	Simeon E. Baldwin
1896–1898	Thomas R. Trowbridge
1898–1900	Lynde Harrison
1900–1903	Edwin S. Lines
1903–1913	Williston Walker
1913–1922	William A. Beardsley
1922–1924	Allen Johnson
1924–1944	John L. Gilson
1944–1952	Harris E. Starr
1952–1958	Ralph H. Gabriel
1958–1961	Sidney Withington
1961–1967	Rollin G. Osterweis
1967–1969	W. Ogden Ross
1969–1974	John D. Kernan
1974–1978	Charles C. Kingsley
1978–	Virginia M. Hepler

manufacturer, son of the inventor. The very quintessence of self-made men were Congressman James E. English and Mayor Harmanus M. Welch, whose New Haven Clock Company became the largest such business in the world.

Three future governors of Connecticut were among the first members: Simeon E. Baldwin, Charles R. Ingersoll and Henry Dutton. Also notable was past Governor Roger Sherman Baldwin, who with John Quincy Adams had presented the case of the *Amistad* captives before the United States Supreme Court. Another was Nathaniel Jocelyn, whose antislavery showpiece portrait of Cinqué, the *Amistad* chief, would become one of the Society's most prized and famous paintings.

Inevitably the charter membership included intellectuals of the community, including clergymen such as New Haven historian Edward E. Atwater. Three women were among the founders: Mary Hillhouse, Martha Reynolds and Susan Trowbridge. Families whose leadership extended back to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were represented by three Ingersolls, three Townshends and seven Trowbridges.

In the first decade administrative matters rested entirely with the officers, who were active in other organizations in addition to their professional and business careers. John T. Collis was appointed "Curator and Librarian of the Society's Collections." Ill health, as well as his duties as treasurer of the People's Savings Bank, prevented his giving much service, so Professor Edward H. Leffingwell, a physician, acted in this capacity during the years at City Hall. His collection of autographs and other papers, given in 1862, undoubtedly gave him a protective interest.

A problem that besets all historical societies immediately became apparent. The curator's first report of 1863 noted that "59 curiosities and relics" had been donated. A returning tourist displayed one such article at the end of a board meeting on a fall evening of 1864. The minutes relate that "The mummy of a snake, presented by Mr. W.R.H. Trowbridge and brought by him from Thebes was unrolled in the presence of the Directors. Adjourned." (The same thoughtful and indefatigable traveler later brought in rosary beads from the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.) Somewhat closer to the Society's collection policy was the Charter Oak, which had fallen in 1856. From it, along with pieces of historic houses and hunks of ancient ships, a succession of fragments came—sufficient to stack a long winter's woodpile. There were also such "objects of curiosity" (having no provenance) as "Two bones with teeth attached like saw teeth."

The paintings collection got under way immediately with two oil paintings given in the first year. In 1865 Major William M.B. Hartley donated the portrait of Governor Jonathan Trumbull attributed to his son.

Rather stringent lending rules were established for the library in 1867, whereby borrowers with authorization from any director might borrow one or two volumes in a given month. Lack of space precluded a reading room, and the books and pamphlets remained uncatalogued. A notable accession came in 1869, when Dr. Ellsworth Foote presented the 1795 manuscript of President Ezra Stiles's *History of Three of the Judges of King Charles,* and a 1775 map of New Haven.

In the fall of 1869 the Society began to experience the insecurity that would last until 1893, and which would frustrate orderly and constructive planning. The use of the room and vault on the third floor of City Hall had been conditional, "so long as said City and Town have no occasion to occupy the same." In answer to an order from the Common Council to vacate, the directors protested and remained for eleven more years. The larger public meetings were variously held in the Common Council chamber, the Superior Court room, and occasionally at the Merchant's Exchange or the Loomis Temple of Music. Sometimes the meeting room of the Board of Road Commissioners was used. These meeting places often had the usual problems of nightly use of unoccupied public buildings: lack of custodian or key.

A crisis of a different kind came in the next two years, resulting in a reorganization of sorts. Membership had decreased by nearly half. A peculiar Yankee reticence prevented the collection of dues by the officers. (Someone was usually delegated to do this, receiving a commission for each member.) Meetings were cancelled for lack of attendance, and speakers could not be found. "As the fervor of our first love has somewhat abated, it is now difficult to secure such papers as we need for all our bimonthly meetings."

A committee on reorganization recommended that four public lectures be offered each year, with others provided for the smaller circle of antiquarian specialists. Dues for the 139 members were now raised from one dollar to five. The Reverend Eben Edwards Beardsley, D.D., became president in 1873. Founder and rector of St. Thomas's Church and a church historian, he led the Society for the next eleven years.

In the 1870s the Society moved effectively for the preservation and transcription of early Connecticut town records. This was the lifelong interest of Simeon E. Baldwin, and he perpetuated it by a bequest. In 1876 the first volume of *New Haven Town Records* was published from a transcript prepared by Franklin Bowditch Dexter, secretary of Yale College, and an active member of the Society.

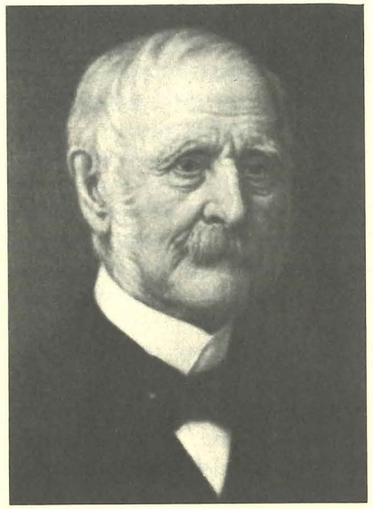
Undoubtedly the upsurge of public interest in history which came with the centennial of American independence sparked another better known work. At a meeting of the Society attended by Mayor Henry G. Lewis in February 1876, a committee was appointed to confer with a city committee charged with preparing a local history. It appeared eleven years later, entitled *History of the City of New Haven to the Present Time,* edited by Edward E. Atwater, who was assisted by an "Association of Writers," most of whom belonged to the Society. Volume 2 of *Papers of the New Haven Colony Historical Society* was published in 1877, a sequel to the first, which had been published in 1865.

At the Old State House: 1880–1893

After seventeen years as a rent-free tenant at City Hall, the Society was dispossessed in 1880. Mayor Hobart B. Bigelow tempered the eviction with an offer of two rooms in the Old State House on the Green. The building in fact was not old, having been erected of Sing Sing marble in Greek Revival style by Ithiel Towne only fifty years before. As the successor of two previous state houses, it inherited their adjective and some truly old building material. Four levels of government, state, county, town and city had joined in its construction, making for rather uncertain responsibility and jurisdiction. The General Assembly met here for its fall session each year until the co-capital arrangement between Hartford and New Haven was dropped in 1874. Until 1861 the Old State House also served as a courthouse, and it was here that the celebrated *Amistad* slaver case was tried in its beginning stages before the United States District Court. With the departure of the courts and the legislature, the building became the unwanted orphan of local government. But for the New Haven Colony Historical Society the State House was an excellent situation in which to establish, for the first time, its own identity, with sufficient space to develop its library and museum collections, and to host public meetings.

A new spirit manifested itself. In 1881 the first paid staff member, a "curatress," probably a caretaker, was hired at $100 per annum. Other possibilities were realized as the image of a very small gentlemen's debating club meeting in municipal rooms began to fade. In January 1882, Martha J. Lamb lectured on "Lion Gardiner, First Proprietor of the Manor of Gardiner's Island," delivering the first paper by a woman.

"Congratulatory remarks on the prosperous condition of the Society by several members" were heard at the annual meeting of 1884. An unprecedented thirty-five members were on hand to elect the Society's third president, the dynamic Simeon E. Baldwin, legal scholar, historian, jurist and future governor. Perhaps quality exceeded quantity among the members. At the same meeting, James E. English was elected vice president, having retired from a long political career ending in the



Horace Day, painted in 1903 by Harry Ives Thompson. Day spearheaded the committee that formed the Society in 1862.

United States Senate. Two other former governors graced the occasion, Charles R. Ingersoll and Henry Dutton. The board at the time counted three doctors of divinity and three doctors of medicine among its numbers. In these years in the State House on the Green, the Society was in the mainstream of state and municipal affairs.

The year 1884 brought the centennial celebration of New Haven's incorporation. The day, observed on July 4, began with the ringing of bells for one hour, and a hundred-gun salute from East Rock. Governor Waller and staff on horseback and Mayor George Lewis and neighboring mayors in carriages paraded to ceremonies on the Green, accompanied by eight divisions including the Second Company of Governor's Foot Guards, the Veteran Grays and the Second Company of Governor's Horse Guards. A "battalion of Antiques and Horribles" caused much laughter. The Historical Society loaned its miniature man-of-war, the *Constitution*, which was carried at the head of the parade. (The little galleon was picked up in the British Channel in 1764 by a ship bound for New Haven from Marseille. It had been carried in previous processions at the end of the American Revolution in 1783, at the end of the War of 1812, and at New Haven's bicentennial celebration in 1838.)

Through the initiative of the secretary, Thomas R. Trowbridge, who had a special interest in the Green, the Society in 1884 placed a tablet commemorating Theophilus Eaton, first governor of New Haven, on the outside wall of Center Church.

Simeon E. Baldwin, out of his vast erudition, delivered more papers than any other member. Despite an intense public and professional life, his great energy and inquiring intellect contributed greatly to the distinction of the Society for over half a century. One of his most memorable papers, "The Captives of the Amistad," was presented in 1886. The celebrated case had begun in the very State House where his

listeners were then sitting. His own knowledge of the case came not only through the written record, but from his father, Roger Sherman Baldwin, who had argued it before the United States Supreme Court. The paper remains an authoritative summary of one of the events that moved the nation's conscience inexorably toward the abolition of slavery. Its presentation and response to it demonstrate one of the essential purposes of any historical society, namely to awaken people to their own historical experience. President Baldwin did not put his hearers to sleep. Rather, he evoked a catharsis of community recollection. The minutes record that at the conclusion of the paper, several "mentioned interesting incidents of the Captives while prisoners in our County Jail and in Westville, and after their release."

In an 1887 paper, "The Hebrew Immigration to This Country," Rabbi Louis Kleeberg detailed Jewish communities of colonial times in New Amsterdam, Savannah, Charleston and Newport, bringing the subject down to that time. He was given "A vote of thanks which was heartily and unanimously passed, and afterwards he was introduced to members and friends of the Society." Dr. Kleeberg returned on another occasion to lecture on the Talmud.

Public meetings were well attended in the 1880s, with an average of 100 to 150 present. A meeting in 1885 brought out 227 members and guests. Unlike the past, the public meetings now offered an opportunity for viewing the collections. With a full-time curator, the Society came to occupy six rooms at the Old State House. A nautical room had been fitted up for appropriate items, and in 1887, as though predestined, came the final touch. Mrs. Philip Gilpin presented the four companion paintings of the naval combat between the *Constitution* and the *Guerrière* in the War of 1812. Authenticity had been guaranteed by the fact that Mrs. Gilpin's uncle, Commodore Isaac Hull of Derby, the *Constitution*'s commanding officer, had acted as supervising consultant to the painter.

For the first time the library was able to provide a reading room with periodicals and other publications. The books were finally catalogued. Dwight E. Bowers, who acted as librarian, announced in 1888 that the Society had been appointed as one of the depositories of state documents. In the next year the Dixwell Papers, relating to Colonel John Dixwell, one of Charles the First's condemning judges, were donated. At the time they were esteemed "The most valuable collection of original papers ever presented to the Society by a single individual. The donor was Epes Sargent Dixwell of Cambridge, Massachusetts. The puritan soldier's silver snuff box was included.

With characteristic high good humor Thomas R. Trowbridge (the younger) recalled the Society's decade in the State House. "Hardly were we domiciled in our new home before propositions were made and articles appeared in our daily press, recommending the removal of the State House." For the sole purpose of safeguarding the Society's interests he was elected to the Common Council, on which he served three years, "watching, obstructing, memorializing, raising committees, etc.," while enduring "tedious debates on bath houses, crosswalks, sewers, etc. It is only fair to say that the friends of the society were generally victorious; at least they prevented for several years the demolition of the building. When the verdict of the

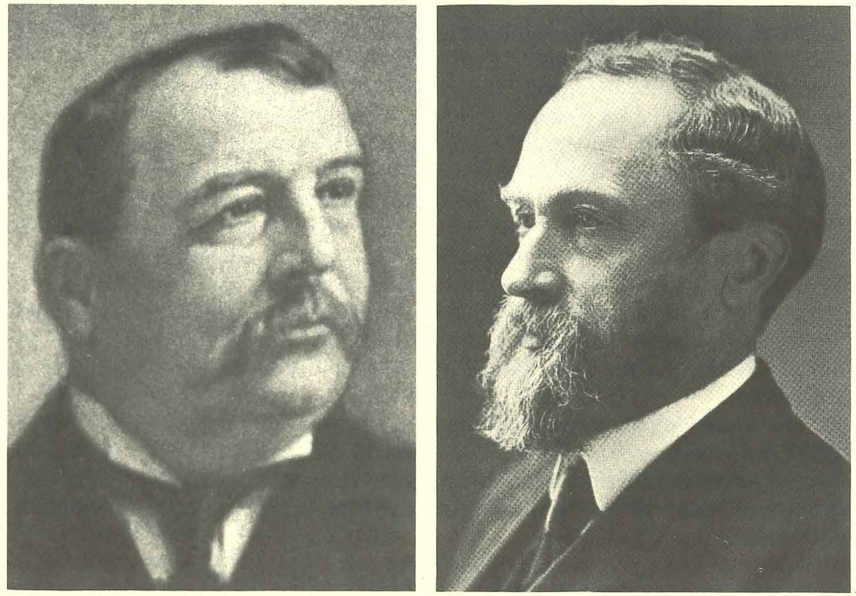
council was given in our favor, we quietly annexed another room, and as we entered into the State House war with two rooms and came out with six, we have always thought we were the victors." After an injunction was obtained by Eli Whitney and other large taxpayers to prevent the demolition, the board finally voted in the summer of 1889 to vacate, acquiescing to overwhelming public opinion. Nostalgia counted for little in the public mind of the nineteenth century. Not even a "monument to the genius of the architect, Mr. Ithiel Towne," was worth preservation, so imbued were the times with progress and modernization. Yet the removal of the State House ultimately redounded to the Society's benefit, and the Green achieved its now familiar uncluttered and pleasant asymmetry.

The Society found smaller quarters in the Insurance Building on Chapel Street opposite the Green, where six rooms of contents were moved into one room. No longer the ward of local government, the Society for the first time in thirty-seven years had to pay rent. For this, public access was difficult, and there was little room for meetings. (Secretary Trowbridge likened the sense of isolation to that which Noah must have felt on Mount Ararat.) For the time being public meetings were again held in City Hall. Negotiations were concluded with the Public Library for space and an integrated operation. But the Common Council vetoed the arrangement as illegal. Clearly the Society now had to regard itself as an outsider with no claim on government; it would have to seek its own way.

The uncertainty lowered morale. Over 200 members were delinquent in paying their dues. Dwight E. Bowers, volunteer librarian and curator, reported a grave decline in donations to the library. The position of assistant librarian had to be terminated for lack of funds. There was even discussion of disbanding and turning the collections over to the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford.

Henry Fowler English rescued the situation. At a directors' meeting in November 1891, his gift of a lot and a building to be erected on Grove Street at the foot of Hillhouse Avenue was announced. The building would be presented to the New Haven Colony Historical Society in commemoration of his lately deceased father, James Edward English, and his mother, Caroline Fowler English. In a resolution of acceptance, the Board

> Voted that this Society accepts these generous and unsolicited gifts with its warmest acknowledgment of the public spirit and spontaneous liberality which prompted them, and is especially glad of the assurance thus afforded that the memory of Governor English, whose name is so honorably connected with the history of Connecticut, and whose interest in this Society, of which he was at the time of his decease the Vice President, was always constant and deep, will be kept fresh in the hearts of his fellow townsmen to all succeeding generations, not only by what he did for East Rock Park, but for what his son has now done in his name to place upon a permanent foundation the promotion of historical research and local patriotism in the ancient limits of New Haven Colony.



Two presidents of the Society: Thomas R. Trowbridge, 1896-98, painted by Herman Sodersten in 1912; and Simeon E. Baldwin, 1884-96. (The camera angle makes the Trowbridge portrait appear slightly distorted.)

At the same meeting the directors accepted deeds to the Adjutant William Campbell grave site in West Haven, thanking the donors "for their contribution . . . towards securing this permanent memorial of one of the most striking incidents in the history of New Haven during the Revolution." This was the special interest of John Warner Barber, a founder of the Society who had painstakingly established and marked the exact location of the burial place on the testimony of an eyewitness. (The site was conveyed to the West Haven Historical Society in 1977.)

The First English Memorial: 1893–1930

The site of the new English Memorial building at 144 Grove Street had historical associations. Robert Newman's "Mighty Barn," in which the free planters of New Haven had constituted their government on June 4, 1639, had stood there. The residence of John Dixwell, one of the Regicides, had also stood a few feet away. Charles Dickens, passing through these environs a half-century before, had gazed up the same Hillhouse Avenue, declaring it to be the most beautiful street in America.

The new headquarters was of modified Italian Renaissance style, having the first story and trim constructed of Tuckahoe marble, and two upper stories of light buff brick and terra cotta. The cost for the lot and construction totaled $88,200.

At the dedicatory meeting on September 28, 1893, 460 persons crowded into Colonial Hall, among them delegates from many similar societies around the country. The president, Judge Baldwin, in his address looked to a future in which the membership would quadruple the present 250, and pledged to make the new headquarters a center of generous cultivation of historical research. The orator at the meeting, Horace Day, early prime mover and one of the few surviving founders, paid tribute to the Honorable James English. Secretary Thomas R. Trowbridge reviewed the history of the Society. Several others, including Professor H.B. Adams of Johns Hopkins University and secretary of the American Historical Association, were called on for remarks. A collation was provided to the members and their guests, who were encouraged to inspect the collections, the library and the portrait gallery.

In its own quarters the Society became more certain in its administration and more extroverted in the pursuit of its purposes. Four new committees came into being concerned with the building, the women's program, the library and the museum.

The house committee, for many years chaired by Henry F. Fowler, was charged with the management and use of the building. As chief benefactor of the Society, Mr. English often had the final word in major decisions. As a consequence, his house committee reflected this personal prerogative, often functioning as an executive committee.

Women's participation came to be coordinated by "The Ladies' Auxiliary and Advisory Committee," conceived as a female counterpart to the directors, and corresponding in size to the board quorum. The committee members for the most part were the wives or other female relatives of board members. A male trustee had charge of the committee's finances and reported to his colleagues on the board. The women proved themselves not only competent but essential to the Society's activities, thus ending the more chauvinistic elements in the original concept. Their lecture series of 1896 was "a brillant success." In the spring of 1898 the board cancelled the usual papers to support the women's series, which featured speakers from out of the city. At the American Historical Society's meeting at the English Memorial in December 1898 the women provided a reception committee. It was a transformed society whose members and guests sat down to dinner on April 30, 1899 to celebrate the one hundred tenth anniversary of George Washington's first inauguration, an event planned by women members.

Dwight E. Bowers, a young attorney, established the library. In addition to his work as treasurer for the Society, he was in the library almost daily, supervising its care, or doing the work himself. Due to his concern, the first reading room was set up, and the Society became a depository for state documents. In the new building Miss Katharine H. Trowbridge was retained as curator and assistant librarian, at $25 a month, to keep "the Rooms" open at least four hours daily, and "to undertake to collect the annual dues on ten per cent commission." The museum collections were therefore open to the public from 10:00 until 12:30 weekday mornings, and from 2:30 to 4:30 in the afternoons. During the same hours the library was open to

members and their families. (The library did not then serve the public.) In 1900 a library committee was established.

The museum collections were in chaos, having been moved four times in as many decades, and having been in the care of eleven curators with varying interest and expertise. A "Committee on Identification of Relics" was instructed "to report so far as possible a list of articles formerly belonging to the Society and now missing from its collections." Their work became the basis for the 1907 catalogue, *Collections of the New Haven Colony Historical Society.* The relics committee became a permanent fixture, finally evolving into the accessions committee in 1945.

Accessions provided a stimulus for proper care and staffing. In 1898 the famed portrait of Cinqué, the *Amistad* captive, painted by Nathaniel Jocelyn, was received from the estate of Dr. Charles B. Purvis. The New Haven Clock Company presented one of its manufactures which had been retrieved from a Spanish warship sunk by Admiral Dewey in Manila Bay. Legal papers relating to "Aunty Lois" Tritton and her mother, the last slaves to be sold on the Green (1825), were acquired. The death in 1903 of the last charter member of the Society, Governor Charles R. Ingersoll, brought the Ingersoll Papers, including correspondence of Jared Ingersoll, of Stamp Act fame. A less encouraging category included the shell of an ostrich egg and a specimen of fossil teeth.

Papers read before the Society were still varied, but with subjects and speakers somewhat further afield. In the 1890s Henry T. Blake read a series later published in what remains a handy reference work, *Chronicles of New Haven Green from 1638 to 1862.* United States Senator Orville H. Platt expatiated on customs in the black community surrounding the election of alternate state executives in a paper entitled "The Negro Governors of Connecticut." "Some Reminiscences of Early Irish Settlers in New Haven" was the subject of Walter J. Connor in 1898. And the Reverend Joseph Anderson spoke on "The Indians of Connecticut."

To these regional topics, the committee charged with selecting papers to be read before the Society added contemporary, and even disturbing, subjects. A few of these were: "Ballooning and Air Navigation as a Science," "The Cuba of Today," "The Present Social Unrest in the Light of History" (i.e., the rise of socialism and labor unrest), and "What Europeans Do for Their Cities" (bath houses, wash houses, etc., illustrated by stereopticon views). The Society was responding to the current fad for lectures. In fact a local Chautauqua Club occasionally met in the building.

The Society entered the twentieth century in a favorable position, with a membership exceeding 300, and a sizeable General Fund with investments in railroad and utility bonds. The staff situation made a completely new beginning possible. Accordingly the house committee reported a job description based on experience of the past decade, recommending "that hereafter the duties of Librarian and Curator [shall] be fulfilled by the same person." Ralph O. Williams, Yale class of 1861, was appointed to the position with an annual compensation of $600, plus housing on the third floor. His duties would include correspondence on behalf of the Society and collection of membership dues. This factotum position would be central

to the Society's daily operation for the next sixty-seven years. The annual reports were now printed and published in sober grey covers, a format lasting until 1929.

In his presidency (1900-1903) the Reverend Edwin S. Lines launched a successful drive for a $20,000 endowment fund. The drive had been preceded in 1898 by the Society's first bequest from its late vice president, Eli Whitney. Personal wealth was more available for benevolent purposes in the first decade of the twentieth century than it would be after the advent of the federal income tax in 1913. In those years the Society's capital base was formed. Gifts and bequests from 1900 to 1920 were: the Fowler Library Fund, the Dwight E. Bowers Fund, the Augustus E. Lines Fund, the Evelina J. Jones Fund, the Simeon E. Baldwin Fund, the Ellsworth I. Foote Fund, the Grace T. Rowland Fund, the Frederick W.J. Sizer Fund, and two funds from the estate of William Scranton Pardee. Annual income was now sufficient to maintain a viable operation.

Frederick Bostwick, a life member of the Society, took over its administration in 1906. As a former employee of Harvard University Press and foreman of Yale University Press's printing office, he brought editing and genealogical skills to the position. Through his initiative innovations were introduced. A "Type-Writing Machine" was purchased in 1907. A family man with sons at Yale, he found ways and means of augmenting his income. He became superintendent of nearby Grove Street Cemetery, managing "The New Haven Burial Ground Association" from the Society's office. This occasioned the installation of the first telephone at 144 Grove Street in 1909. With time and resources available, he also served as state registrar for the Sons of the American Revolution, checking over genealogical data on membership applications. Under his supervision the gaslight era slowly came to an end at the New Haven Colony Historical Society. The first electric lights were installed only in the library in 1916, with the entire building finally wired in 1922, the year of his death.

The Society inevitably began to reflect New Haven's ethnic and religious diversity. In mutually deferential correspondence of 1911 between the district deputy of B'nai B'rith and Frederick Bostwick, it was established that "at least" eleven members were of the Jewish faith. These were Frederick and Max Adler, Louis Heller, Erwin Jacobs, Isaac Kleiner, Lewis Osterweis, Simon Shoniger, Rudolph Steinert, Isaac and Louis Ullman, and Albert Zunder. These leaders in the law, and in the garment, grocery and piano industries were at the same time emerging in New Haven political life.

After ten years in office, Williston Walker, history professor and clergyman, was succeeded by the Reverend William A. Beardsley, eighth president, in 1913. (Mr. Beardsley was nephew of the second president, and the fourth clergyman to serve in that office.) At the conclusion of his first year, he reported that with a membership of nearly 400, "the Society was never more prosperous in point of numbers than it is at present. . . ."

World War I accelerated change. The first woman, Mrs. Rutherford Trowbridge, was elected to the board without recorded comment in 1919, the year before the

Nineteenth Amendment was passed. Two more were soon added. Meetings began to be scheduled in daylight saving time in 1921. In 1927 President Gilson used motion pictures for the first time, illustrating his recent trip to France and Belgium with the Second Company of Governor's Foot Guards.

The year 1918 also brought the Society one of its greatest bequests. William Scranton Pardee, lawyer and silk manufacturer, had joined the Society in 1902, becoming a director and chief benefactor. Mr. Pardee's earlier benefactions included the gift of a copy of Sir Walter Raleigh's *History of the World* (once the property of John Dixwell). He conceived and funded the publication of Volumes I and II of the New Haven Town "Ancient Record Series" by the Society. After a busy life dedicated to political reform and civic improvement (he headed the National Order of Sign Removers), he died a bachelor at age fifty-eight. Three years before he had purchased what he designated as "Pardee's Old Morris House," at Morris Cove, from the Morris heirs, planning to make it his own home. Under the terms of his will it was left as a museum to be maintained by the Society, a place where "citizens, and neighbors, and civic officers may gather, and the children play and learn and all with a kindly benediction of the past above it." His estate also included funds to maintain the house, and to compile and publish the *Pardee Genealogy*.

The traditional spring opening was first held in May 1920, with a formal welcome to the public in the following year. Early applicants for use of the house were the Civic Association of Morris Cove and the local Parent and Teachers' Association. In 1922 twenty-eight fire chiefs were entertained there by local Chief Francis A. Murry, who after dinner conducted a tour for his guests. Chief Moran of Hartford declared, "We have been entertained at dinner in many places but never before have we enjoyed such a rare treat as this House and its contents." The Daughters of the American Revolution have frequently used the house over the years, faithfully supporting its purposes. Major restoration was completed in the 1920s and 1930s under the supervision of J. Frederick Kelly, specialist in colonial architecture. Built in 1689, and rebuilt after a devastating English raid of 1779, the house is one of New England's most visited early homes, a monument to its donor's public-spirited generosity.

Signs of discouragement in the Society appeared in the 1920s. A campaign for 1,000 new members in 1923 brought in only forty-eight, to President Allen Johnson's dismay. Likewise a spontaneous drive to raise a new endowment fund from twenty donors, each to contribute $500, brought only seven responses. His successor noted that "our present membership . . . are mostly past middle life." Judge John Gilson of the Probate Court was elected president in 1924 and remained until 1944. His willingness to look on the brighter side of life enabled him to serve the longest presidency, and to see the Society through its most difficult period. A more successful membership drive in 1927 brought the total to 717, including 27 life members.

At the same time Miss Ethel Lord Scofield took over the duties of curator and librarian for the next two decades. A member of the Society, she had assisted in

transcribing the New Haven Town Records. Otherwise, her preparation for the position was limited to a one-day visit to Hartford "to acquire some valuable ideas" at the Connecticut Historical Society, Wadsworth Atheneum and the Connecticut State Library. Subsequently she attended a summer course in library science. Her stipend was raised to $1,800 in 1927, the last increase she would receive. President Gilson, in commending her "untiring energy, enthusiasm and good judgment," noted her "unusual experience in genealogical research" as qualifying her for "this important work." From 1906 until 1946 family history claimed much of the Society's time and energy.

Building problems began to develop at 144 Grove Street, and the fire marshal was concerned about violations. The tendency was to do as little as possible about such things, inasmuch as the whole future of the English Memorial was now in question. By 1925 the Society's location was the only plot in the block bounded by Temple, Wall, College and Grove Streets not yet acquired by Yale University for the projected Silliman College. The directors voted in 1929 to conclude an agreement with Yale's Sheffield Scientific School, conveying 144 Grove Street in exchange for "The Fellowes Property" on Whitney Avenue. In addition the Sheffield trustees would pay $350,000 in installments during the construction of the new English Memorial at 114 Whitney Avenue. J. Frederick Kelly was retained as architect.

The Second English Memorial: 1930–1946

The cornerstone at 114 Whitney Avenue was laid late on a beautiful fall afternoon, September 21, 1929. A platform for the ceremonies had been erected at the northeast corner of the site. The Second Company of Governor's Foot Guard Band provided the music and accompanied appropriate hymns. The Reverend Doctor William A. Beardsley, former president, invoked divine assistance. Addresses were given by President Gilson and Director in Permanency Burton Mansfield. Mr. Henry F. English laid the cornerstone, in which were deposited a complete issue of the day's newspapers; a history of the Society to the current time; a description of Colonial Hall, the first English Memorial; a collection of contemporary coins; a rescript of the dedication addresses; the report of a sermon preached on the death in 1926 of former Governor and Chief Justice Simeon E. Baldwin; and essays written by George Dudley Seymour, prominent New Haven attorney and antiquarian.

The new English Memorial was ready for occupancy in time for the annual meeting of November 24. State Librarian George Godard prefaced the first paper in the building with admiration and congratulations, discoursing on "Some of the Functions of the Historical Society."

Finally on June 10, 1931, the completed building was dedicated at 8:30 in the evening, when a large crowd witnessed the presentation of the keys by Mr. Henry English to President Gilson. Strains of orchestra music wafted through the corridors as members and guests shared a buffet supper and inspected the premises and collections.

The new building notwithstanding, this was a traumatic time for the Society, as

well as for the nation. Four weeks after the cornerstone had been laid, "Black Thursday" ushered in the 1929 crash and the Great Depression. The Society's membership and investments were not exempt from the general downturn of the economy. With one exception, no publications were issued until the end of World War II. Lack of funds limited the staff to the bare minimum required for daily operations, with long-term needs neglected. Unpacked cases and crates languished in the basement, while the library took precedence over the museum. In this, however, the staff was only responding to a public demand.

Genealogy, the tabulation of family history, had become popular in the last four decades of the nineteenth century. Undoubtedly it was stimulated by the centennial celebration of 1876, when patriotic organizations with hereditary membership requirements came into being. Also as life became progressively urbanized, family origins provided an identity perhaps not otherwise available. Such an identity was important in the new pluralism consequent on later immigration, which brought even greater religious and cultural diversity. Ancestry had also now acquired Darwinian and Mendelian connotations. Through genealogy the present generation might prove itself the fittest that had survived, or a genetic throwback to superior forebears.

Genealogy is first mentioned in the Society's proceedings in an 1875 paper entitled "Mr. William Diodati of New Haven—1717 to 1751—and his Italian Ancestry." The genealogical manuscripts of Dr. Talcott of Guilford were received in 1886, the first such accession. The Society, like all historical societies in the larger urban centers, began to provide the necessary materials and expertise to service this field of historical investigation.

From 1906 until 1946 qualified genealogists in the persons of Frederick Bostwick, Ethel Scofield and Herbert Wood supervised the daily administration of the Society. The curator and librarian in those years was continuously occupied with searching out answers to mail inquiries and assisting amateur and professional genealogists in the library.

More than any staff member, however, Donald Lines Jacobus personified genealogy at the New Haven Colony Historical Society. For more than half a century the library provided the locus of his work. Many recall seeing him there, typically wearing a woolen cardigan sweater, toiling industriously to produce the grist for 70 volumes and 250 magazine articles. Five of the genealogies on which he worked were published by the Society. He originated and published *The American Genealogist* and *New Haven Genealogical Magazine.* As a director he was respected, perhaps even beloved, by colleagues and staff.

The *Pardee Genealogy* was his first work undertaken for the Society, and his last efforts went into its additions and corrections. A man who planned everything with exactness, and knowing of his impending end, he forwarded his final Pardee notes for an issue of the *Journal* which would also include his obituary. He died a few days after his eighty-third birthday, having with characteristic thoroughness compiled his own memorial service. Accordingly on Saturday, November 28, 1970, members and

friends gathered in the auditorium at 114 Whitney Avenue to hear words of holy scripture and poetry. Appended was a "Valedictory," thankfully recalling in detail many friends and happy events which had made his life fulfilling.

As early as 1923 President Allen Johnson (echoed by President Gilson in 1927) warned against an overemphasis on family history. "There are other interests to be cultivated. The grave danger that besets our Society is that it shall consider itself too narrowly as an historical depository and not as an active agency for the diffusion of historical information." If the Society surrendered to this danger in the 1930s and 1940s, it was due more to public demand and other external circumstances than to deliberate policy.

The Society was not out of touch with the community at large. In 1932, the two-hundredth anniversary of George Washington's birth was observed with an exhibit of relevant Amos Doolittle engravings. Freshmen at New Haven State Normal School came to hear Miss Scofield lecture on "The Educational Facilities that the New Haven Colony Historical Society Has to Offer to the Teacher" in 1935. The "Know Your City Club" of Troup Junior High School was one of the several student groups to visit. In 1936, the Society cooperated with the Works Progress Administration's Federal Writers Project, furnishing space for an editorial group of seven conducting the Federal Historical Records Survey in the region.

In its role as community memory bank, the Society alerted the mayor's office to the approaching three-hundredth anniversary as early as 1929. At the same time, it was suggested that "a compilation of a carefully edited and comprehensive history of the progress of New Haven during these past three centuries, under the auspices of this society, might be a proper undertaking. . . ." President Gilson had taken his inspiration from Edward E. Atwater's work of 1887, to which the Society had contributed. The history was written belatedly, but ten of the Society's members were appointed to the city's Tercentenary Commission, which had its headquarters at 114 Whitney Avenue. "Inventors and Engineers of Old New Haven," the commission's only publication, was supplied by the Society. The high point of the Tercentenary came with a great conclave at the Yale Bowl on Sunday afternoon, May 29, 1938, at which Governor Wilbur L. Cross gave the oration. Congressman James A. Shanley, a Society member, reported the proceedings and relevant material in extended remarks for the *Congressional Record.* The Governor returned to speak again in the fall at the Society's seventy-fifth annual meeting.

The civil rights movement began to gather momentum in the 1930s. Inevitably Nathaniel Jocelyn's painting of Cinqué, portraying the dignity of the black race, stirred new interest. It was requested for the Paris Exhibit of American Painting in 1934. It was loaned to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York for exhibit during the 1939 World's Fair. Reproductions were furnished to Howard University and to the Afro-American Newspapers of Baltimore for publication. Inmate #12833 at Wethersfield wrote an article on the *Amistad* captives for the prison magazine. His source was Volume IV of the Society's Papers, provided by the tactful Miss Scofield, who relaxed the library rules to loan it.

World War II brought difficult days and near breakdown. Office correspondence too often went unanswered for too long. Fuel oil rationing, added to the perennial problems of the heating system, kept the building temperature too low for efficient work. Custodial help was difficult to find, and even more difficult to keep. When the furnace was converted to coal, the curator and librarian much of the time had to stoke the furnace herself, from her live-in apartment. Miss Scofield's capability was taxed to the limit.

The ultimate extremity came in January 1944, when the house committee informed the employees that they would receive no pay while the building was closed for an overhaul of the heating system. In a "kindly spirit" the board accepted Miss Scofield's resignation, thanking her for her "indefatigable" devotion to duty over the past twenty years. A few months later, Judge Gilson died, having already announced that he would not serve another year. So ended two difficult decades in which the leadership wrestled persistently against problems over which it could have no control.

W. Herbert Wood, a genealogist also previously associated with the Society, was appointed curator and librarian. He noted that "Many things have never been sorted out since the removal of this Society to our present building." Director in Permanency Arnold G. Dana commended him for his "vigorous" assumption of responsibilities, but his tenure was brief.

President Harris E. Starr, clergyman and an associate editor of the *American Dictionary of Biography,* appointed a committee to "Examine and report on the whole problem of putting the Society on its feet financially and in terms of activity as a living organism in the City." Drastic measures were adopted in 1946 as new beginnings became possible at the end of World War II. The museum would now be open on Sundays, closed on Mondays. Weekday hours would be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Treasurer Raynham Townshend reported "the first balancing of our budget in years," after the Society's perpetual benefactor, Henry English, had erased the current deficit with a generous check. Two hundred thirty-four new members were added in 1945 and 1946. Clearly renewal was well under way by the annual meeting of 1946, when membership totaled 531.

Gradual Recovery: 1946–1968

Ralph W. Thomas became curator and librarian late in 1946. Better than anyone else who filled the position, he fulfilled the job description laid down in 1900. "His energy, his wit, his willingness, his sincerity and his knowledge of New Haven history and antiquities," in the opinion of the board, made the Society what it became in the eighteen years of his administration.

His early training had been at Harvard's Fogg Museum in portrait restoration and art history. His acquaintance with the Society began in 1932, when the board gave him the use of a work room in return for his services. Over the years he restored most of the Society's paintings, while also working at the Yale University Art Gallery and in other regional collections. Except for a period of service in World War II, he had

been at 114 Whitney Avenue for fourteen years before taking over its management.

Knowing the problems of his associates and predecessors helped him to improve postwar circumstances. His assessment was frank: "In recent years, due to carelessness, indifference and ignorance of practical matters of maintenance and operation, many necessary things have been totally neglected or improperly cared for." Reporting at the 1947 annual meeting, he listed sixteen areas in which improvements had been made over the past year, as well as six needs remaining to be funded, from library binding to tree surgery.

A better balance in emphasis between the library and the museum began to appear. The Society's own collections provided materials for exhibitions. "Arms and Armor" featured American items from 1620 to 1783 in the spring of 1947. Robert Pryde's golf collection was displayed on the second floor.

A legacy from the estate of George Dudley Seymour with annual allocations from his New Haven Foundation aided in the recovery. Mr. Seymour's will stipulated that the Society should use his bequest for, among other things, publishing a periodical, and for opening the museum to the public on Sundays and holidays. After two earlier experimental newsletters, Volume I, Number 1 of the *New Haven Colony Historical Society Journal* got under way in 1952. The tenth volume of the Society's *Papers* had appeared a year earlier.

A lawn sign dispelled the former appearance of private property. Mr. Thomas reported to the house committee that it brought in "a great many visitors who . . . were not previously aware what we were or that we were open to the public." The curator and librarian appeared on "Connecticut Spotlight," a local television program, in 1952 to publicize the museum, bringing listener interest and response. In the same year a valuable new contact was made in loaning eight items to the New Haven Chamber of Commerce for its Industrial Exhibition. As a result, the exhibition's manager, W. Ogden Ross, joined the Society and later became its fifteenth president.

The Dana Scrapbook collection, entitled *New Haven, New and Old* by its compiler, came from the estate of Arnold Guyot Dana in 1947. The 150 scrapbooks were the end product of Mr. Dana's avocation of recording the passage of time in all areas of the city, lot by lot, through the preservation of clippings, maps and photographs. Ever since its accession the Dana Collection has been a treasure trove for journalists, scholars and students doing New Haven research. The preservation and micro-filming of her father's collection has been the loving concern of Mrs. Philip English. The Connecticut pewter collection of Charles K. Davis came to the Society shortly afterwards to augment the earlier bequest of Eugene DeForest.

Unsolicited gestures of appreciation came to the Society as its previous isolation disappeared. One such gesture brought a large cake in 1955. It seems that in 1639 Governor Theophilus Eaton issued to Peter Browne the first bakeshop license in Connecticut. In celebrating the three-hundred-sixteenth anniversary of this event, the Connecticut Bakers' Association produced a masterpiece, decorated with the seal of the Society. President Ralph Gabriel, Secretary Thew Wright, Jr., Treasurer

Raynham Townsend and Mr. Thomas were photographed receiving the large confection at the February 1955 meeting.

The New Haven Tercentenary Commission turned over a substantial balance to the Society after the celebration of 1938 for the publication of a New Haven history. President Gilson had originally suggested such a book in 1929. Various factors delayed the publication beyond the three-hundredth anniversary, and it was not until World War II that the Society commissioned a member, Rollin G. Osterweis, assistant professor of history and a fellow of Yale's Jonathan Edwards College, "to prepare a history of New Haven which will be of interest to the general reader and of value to the historical scholar." Professor Osterweis's book, *Three Centuries of New Haven, 1638–1938,* was published by Yale University Press on April 24, 1953. On that evening President Gabriel presented a copy to Mayor William Celentano, and Dr. Osterweis described his five-year writing adventure to an overflow audience. For that evening State Librarian James Brewster loaned for exhibition the two precious manuscript volumes of New Haven Colony records from 1638 to 1665.

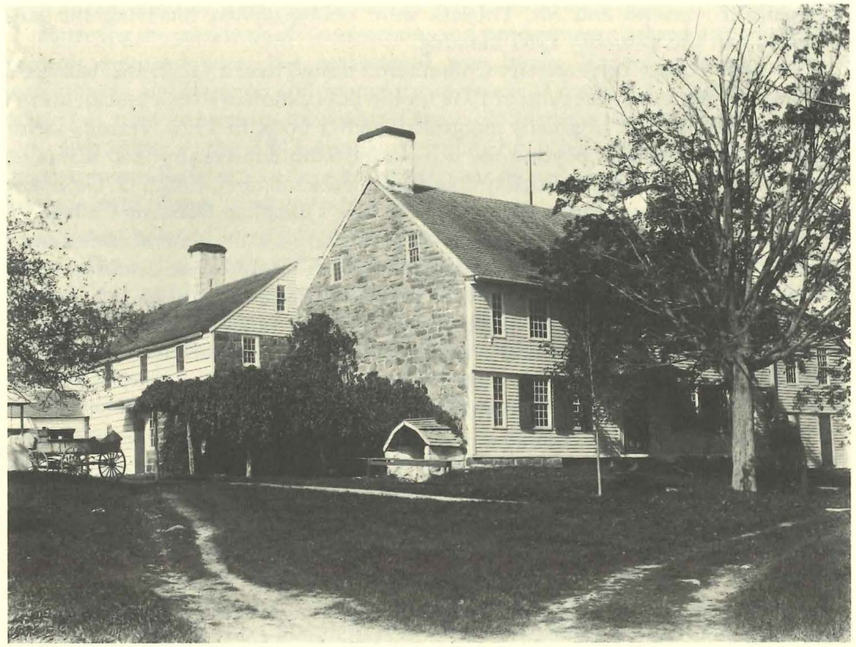
A direct and ultimate consequence of this loan was the publication in 1962 of Volume III of the *Ancient Records Series,* containing New Haven's town meeting records, 1684 to 1769. (Two volumes of the series remain to be published, namely records of the New Haven selectmen from 1665 to 1714, of which Franklin B. Dexter's manuscript copy is in the library; and the records of the Proprietors' Committee of Common and Undivided Lands from 1724 to 1749.)

Reminiscent of the early days, contact with the municipal government became more frequent. Mayor Richard C. Lee was a scheduled speaker at a 1954 meeting, and the Society loaned appropriate paintings to decorate the walls of the honorable member's office. President Gabriel proposed that the records of the New Haven Redevelopment Program be deposited with the Society. Planning Director Norris C. Andrews of the New Haven City Plan Commission cooperated by giving a paper, and as a records consultant.

From 1945 until 1967, scholars were in ascendancy on the board of directors. Presidents Harris E. Starr, Ralph H. Gabriel and Rollin G. Osterweis were doctors of philosophy. Yale Librarian James T. Babb, Professor Leonard W. Labaree, and Doctor George B. Lovell of Hopkins Grammar School by their presence raised the quality of the Society's various programs, especially its papers and publications.

Papers of those years included Professor Labaree's "Benjamin Franklin and His Correspondence"; "Ezra Stiles, Revolutionary President of Yale," by Professor Edmund S. Morgan; "New Haven Men in the 102nd U.S. Infantry, American Expeditionary Force, 1917-1919," by Philip H. English; "The Apostle of Liberty, with Comments on the Backdrop of Puritan Contribution," by Congressman James A. Shanley; "Connecticut, the Constitution State," by Justice Raymond E. Baldwin (formerly governor and senator); and Henry H. Townshend's "New Haven Poets and What Gave Them Their Inspiration."

President Sidney Withington was elected in 1958, having retired as an executive of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. Out of his special interest in



The Morris House, now the Pardee-Morris House, photographed about 1890 by Willis N. Butricks. The house was a bequest received in 1918 from the estate of William Scranton Pardee.

early railroads and steamboats, he "enlivened many an evening meeting with papers on themes which enlightened our knowledge of the past and illuminated episodes and activities of historical significance." The Society was saddened by his sudden death in 1961.

In connection with the Civil War Centennial, the Society tried without great success to exercise its traditional role as community reminder and memory bank. Despite his best efforts through the New Haven Civil War Committee, Ralph Thomas got little or no response from municipal government and the local press. He did represent the Society in organizing a public commemoration in 1962 of Cornelius S. Bushnell, a charter member of the Society whose experimental ship, the *Monitor,* revolutionized naval warfare. At the meetings the membership heard learned papers concerning Jefferson Davis, Judah P. Benjamin, and the battles of Antietam and Fredericksburg, with biographical sketches of New Haven's own Commodore Foote and Generals Mansfield and Terry.

On assuming office, President Rollin G. Osterweis appointed a centennial committee to plan the Society's one-hundredth birthday party. It was an elegant affair at the New Haven Lawn Club in November 1962. Katharine Prentis Murphy,

Zara Jones Powers and Henry Francis duPont were given awards "for outstanding achievements in our field." A centennial exhibition at 114 Whitney Avenue featured memorabilia from the founding of the Society. Mrs. John F. Pearce, first curator of the White House, gave an illustrated lecture on the executive mansion's collections.

The centennial of the Society occasioned another of its periodic self-searchings. Although there had been a thorough recovery since World War II, it had been in terms of yesteryear. Ralph Thomas reported in 1962 that "with steadily increasing attendance in both museum and library, it becomes increasingly difficult to find time to devote to the clerical, secretarial and administrative tasks necessary to conduct the more important programs of the Society." In fact, as in 1900 and 1946, the curator and librarian continued to be the only full-time employee. Despite new memberships, attrition through deaths and removal kept the total number substantially as it had been over the past fifteen years. And as before, income barely covered tightly disciplined expenditures. A determination emerged that the Society should move into its second century with greater aggressiveness in fulfilling its functions.

Although several women had served on the board beginning in 1919, none had been elected since World War II. Accordingly the nominating committee initiated the election of three in the early 1960s.

President Osterweis appointed a development committee charged with reporting plans "to increase membership, develop greater interest in the Society, improve public relations and generally to recommend ways and means to increase our activities and our contributions to the community."

Mrs. Stuart Clement, a woman of energy and creative imagination with a wide circle of friends, led the committee in making sound recommendations to the board. No miracles were performed, but it was immediately apparent that transformation was under way. A grant funded an assistant for the overworked Ralph Thomas. Twenty-five women volunteered for training and duty as docents to assist the staff. Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Frank Hepler the women's committee was revived, beginning the Colony Shop as a source of income and a service to visitors. An industrial fund-raising program began the development of an Inventors' Hall, the inspiration of Mrs. Clement as her attention was arrested one day by the bust of Charles Goodyear, inventor of vulcanized rubber. The committee knew it was moving in the right direction when $5,000 was given to promote further development, and when at the end of 1964 members contributed $1,300 in stock after a timely hint from Mrs. Clement. An open house epitomized the new spirit in December of that year when 400 members and friends with their children came to see the Christmas tree in the rotunda, decorated in the manner of earlier days. The new volunteer docents in period costumes acted as hostesses and guides, light refreshments were served, and the New Haven Chorale sang music of the season.

This encouraging resurgence was somewhat set back in August 1965 by the death of Ralph Thomas. He died suddenly of a heart attack at age fifty-eight at Calais, Maine, as he prepared to return from vacation. Confusion was inevitable in the administrative vacuum left by a diligent curator and librarian who had had

immediate supervision of the Society's whole operation for nearly two decades.

Dr. Catherine Fennelly came to fill the vacancy in 1966. Her appointment reflected the scholarly predilections of the board. She had been a research assistant to Professors Labaree and Osterweis while at Yale, assisting the latter in compiling *Three Centuries of New Haven: 1638-1938.* Recently she had been director of research and publications at Old Sturbridge Village. Miss Fennelly's editorial skills were immediately applied to the expansion and upgrading of the *New Haven Colony Historical Society Journal.*

The development committee's program unfolded with a series of exhibitions designed to engage public attention. The series, "devoted to the broad spectrum of activities and contributions of our forebears, began in 1966, when President Osterweis opened the newly refurbished Exhibition Hall to show the paintings of George H. Durrie, nineteenth-century New Haven artist. A catalogue designed by John O.C. McCrillis for the black-tie occasion was one of several almost accidental features which established a format for the Silver Exhibition of 1967, the China Trade Porcelain Exhibition of 1968, and the Connecticut Pewter Exhibition of 1969. In a decade which delighted in denigrating civility and other inherited values, the Society satisfied a community need to celebrate the past and present with style. One observer commented that "Going to an Historical Society preview is now the 'In Thing' in New Haven." Prime movers in these exhibitions were John D. Kernan, F. Farney Eilers, Jr., Richard Hegel and Reverdy Whitlock. Other exhibits featured New Haven Harbor memorabilia of past centuries; commemoration of Yale's move from Saybrook; Currier and Ives; the art of Theodore Diedricksen; and costumes and accessories from the Society's collections.

A summer display of late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century New Haven scenes was possible through the accession of the Bronson Collection of 17,000 photographic glass plates in 1966. Dr. Thomas S. Bronson, grandson of one of the Society's founders, and official photographer for Yale, produced these plates, which were narrowly saved from oblivion. Through the vigilance of Carroll Means and Gilbert Kenna of the accessions committee, the Society has been able to preserve these depictions of former times, to make them available to journalists, researchers and anyone wishing to investigate New Haven of earlier decades.

The year 1968 marked major shifts in the Society's direction. The development committee's insistence on community outreach had become fixed policy. The election of President W. Ogden Ross, skilled in management and promotion, had confirmed this. Dr. Fennelly having resigned to return to Sturbridge, the outdated job description of 1900 for the Society's factotum administrator was revised. An executive director, assisted by a curator, a librarian and an educational coordinator, would now oversee its operation.

Professionalization: 1968–1980

W. Ogden Ross, fifteenth president, was responsible for planning the special exhibition series of the late 1960s concerned with New Haven history. With a

background in business administration he came to office at the height of a determination within the Society to move forward. The board chose another of its members, Richard Hegel, as the first to hold the title of executive director. Mr. Hegel had also taken a leading role in the exhibition series, spurred by a scholarly interest in local antiquities. Ross Fullam was curator for the museum, and Dorothy Armistead was librarian. An entirely new position was created—educational coordinator, and the post was filled by Nancy Cassella, who supervised school and adult programs.

The new administrative arrangements presupposed that policy planning would originate, at least in part, in the staff. Accordingly, "A Survey Outlining Proposed Objectives" was prepared in October 1968, at the request of James T. Babb. It included a proposal to renovate the basement for a classroom and a display area for the Nettleton house models (built and presented in 1960 by Director Kenneth Nettleton). A membership of 1,000 was projected as realistic, corresponding to the size of the Historical Society in Hartford. The survey also repeated a perennial proposal to construct a second story over the north library stack area.

This was a prelude to the next year's feasibility study, undertaken by the Hogan Winters Division of the Lavin Company of Boston. Fifty-one interviews among directors, staff, members and friends elicited some positive opinions.

> Virtually every interviewee mentioned the broadening of the Society's activities in recent years. It is well recognized that the program now reaches many more people and that the former image of an institution with little concern for public involvement or approval may still remain in some people's minds.
>
> Those knowledgeable about the internal affairs of the Society expressed the opinion that the work of women in behalf of the New Haven Colony Historical Society has been a major factor in involving many more people than in the past. It is also felt that the enlistment of younger directors and members has had a favorable effect.
>
> The program for school children was singled out by many as a desirable function [to] be continued and enlarged. Despite detailed suggestions of how the Society could better its work, there were no really negative comments about what the Society is doing now. It is seldom that we find in a survey of this kind so few basic criticisms of an organization being studied.
>
> This lack of negative feelings coupled with the positive element of approval for what the Society has been accomplishing in recent years reveals an image that is favorable. At the same time, it is a limited image, attracting a relatively small constituency as is true of most historical societies.

Clearly a consensus had been reached, validating the efforts of the development committee, the exhibitions committee, the volunteer docents, the auction committee, the Colony Shop and the whole direction taken since 1961.

As for the future, a large number of interviewees believed that the Society "should become involved with the role of the ethnic groups in the development of the New Haven area as a way of contributing significantly to the recorded history of the region and of making the Society increasingly relevant to many more people. . . . Restoration of the Whitney gun factory on its original site was another suggestion. . . ."

From this study a $400,000 fund-raising campaign developed as a possible first step toward a larger goal. A development program committee drew up a list of immediate needs concerned with staff salaries, lighting and display, conservation, parking, building alterations and maintenance, and educational projects. The campaign, using customary organization and techniques, was mounted under the joint chairmanship of Charles Kingsley and Henry Townshend, Jr.

President John D. Kernan, New Haven attorney, took office in 1969 to bring the campaign to a successful conclusion. He urged the membership "to keep our long term goal of One Million Dollars of capital funds in mind. . . ." One gift endowed the library with $100,000 in memory of Eli and Sarah Farnum Whitney. (The son of the inventor was a charter member and vice president, leaving the Society its first bequest in 1898). There were other sizeable gifts enabling the Society to move further in the professionalization of its staff and operation.

Professionalization got under way in earnest in 1970. Robert R. Macdonald succeeded Mr. Hegel, who resigned to return to full-time study. Mr. Macdonald brought to the executive directorship a background of training and experience entirely suited to the position. He had served at the Smithsonian Institution and had had charge of the Bucks County Historical Society in Pennsylvania. His interest in industrial technology and museum education also commended him. A new curator with similar credentials was already in place, Miss Katherine B. Susman. Recently retired Yale librarians were in charge of the books and manuscripts. Under the supervision of the education department more than 5,000 school children toured the building in the academic year 1969-70, in ninety-six groups from New Haven, and forty-one groups from out of town. More than twenty-five women, headed by Mrs. Osterweis, acted as volunteer docents for the program. At this time membership totaled 931.

In its determination to relate to the historical experience of the entire New Haven community, the Society acted as midwife at the birth of the New Haven Afro-American Historical Society. While the new organization was getting under way, its materials were stored at 114 Whitney Avenue until headquarters were secured. Its founding president, Ernest Saunders, was elected to the board of the New Haven Colony Historical Society, and the docent series now included his lecture on New Haven black history. With the cooperation of the Junior League, "New Haven's Black Heritage," a major special exhibition, was mounted at the Society, tracing local Negro history through the use of photographs and primary documents.

Under Mr. Macdonald's leadership the Society initiated the New Haven Oral History Project, in cooperation with the University of New Haven, Quinnipiac College, Southern Connecticut State College and Albertus Magnus College. A grant

from the Acorn Foundation funded a tape recorder for the use of student interviewers as they reclaimed some of the city's history of the past century from selected elderly persons. Recorded interviews were obtained from people of German, Polish, Irish and Jewish background and deposited in the library for future researchers in history, political science, urbanology and sociology. The March 1972 meeting featured the history of New Haven's Italian community and was rated "one of the most successful programs ever presented at the Society." "Irish Night" brought an outpouring of reminiscences. A similar program was arranged for the Polish community in 1974.

Yale undergraduates came to the Society to participate in a seminar, entitled "Man and Machine in America: The Industrial Archeology of Nineteenth-Century New Haven," conducted by the executive director. From this the effort to document all facets of Eli Whitney's gun factory site developed, resulting in the later archeological dig.

Grants from government sources and private foundations became increasingly important in the funding of programs. In 1973 the National Endowment for the Arts and the Edgerton Foundation matched grants to support a major exhibition, "Furniture of the New Haven Colony: the Seventeenth-Century Style," and an outstanding catalogue accompanied the show. Guest curator Patricia E. Kane set a standard for exhibits that followed the furniture show. A considerable grant from the New Haven Foundation funded the complete cataloguing of the library according to the Library of Congress numbering system. This herculean task was accomplished by Ottilia Koel, who in time became librarian in charge. The National Park Service assisted the dig at the Whitney factory site. For all purposes grants in 1973 totaled $71,400.

A continual round of activities, with much coming and going of the public, was now possible. A diversity of programs appealing to different kinds of people provided courses in needlepoint and antique collecting. Film festivals and lecture series edified that portion of the public hungry for culture. Spring and fall tours to historical sites satisfied both a social and an intellectual need.

Some of the members spontaneously formed a subsidiary which had both a philanthropic and a social motivation. The Robert Newman Fellows organized themselves for the purpose of aiding the Society in obtaining materials for its library and museum. The fellowship took their name from the planter in whose "Mighty Barn" New Haven Colony established its religious and civil foundations in 1639 at the Grove Street site occupied by the Society from 1893 to 1930.

By 1973, 1,360 members were listed on the Society's roster. During that fiscal year, 16,000 people visited the building. Nearly 6,000 children of the greater New Haven area visited the Society and the Morris House for instruction prepared and given by the education department: "The New Haven Colonial Family" and "New Haven Inventors." The department in that year also set up an exhibit of "feedback." In "A Child's View of New Haven," a collection of drawings reflected how the students saw the world in which they were living.

Charles Kingsley, then President of the Society, with Mr. and Mrs. Philip H. English at the dedication of the Philip English Education Center in 1975.

In the same year Philip H. English indicated that he did not wish to be renominated as a director. Accordingly he was elected an honorary director in permanency. However, he continued the interest which his family has shown for three generations for the concerns of the Society. In 1974 he funded the construction and alterations necessary for the Education Center, which the board named for him. Ever since the 1900s when 1,000 pupils and their teachers visited 144 Grove Street to learn about Noah Webster, children had come to the Society to wonder at its treasures. Now at long last they would have a special space to sit down, see films and receive instruction. The Education Center has been an important factor in bringing the entire community into a learning relationship through its schools, thus fulfilling the purposes of the founders, one of whom was James E. English.

Philip English's unflagging interest has more often been demonstrated in less dramatic but nevertheless essential ways, as his father's successor in the chairmanship of the house committee, with continual concern for a beautiful but often maddening building with its drainage and heating problems. Mrs. English for many years headed the Pardee-Morris House committee, and has maintained the Dana Scrapbook Collection with filial piety.

The Society fulfilled its customary community role in alerting the mayor's office to the approach of the American Revolution's Bicentennial. The board's memorandum suggested that W. Ogden Ross be appointed chairman of the commission to plan and lead the celebration, which was done. Mr. Macdonald served as its secretary, often housing the meetings at 114 Whitney Avenue. However, in 1974 Mr. Macdonald resigned to become director of the Louisiana State Museum in New Orleans.

Several changes in leadership took place at this time. Joseph Johnson Smith became the Society's third executive director in the fall of 1974. Like his predecessor he had trained for the position, having graduated from the Cooperstown Program of the State University of New York, and having served as curator of the Historical Society of York County, Pennsylvania. Shortly afterwards Robert Egleston came as curator from five years of similar duty at the Essex Institute. Charles Kingsley, a New Haven attorney, became president of the Society that fall.

In 1974 the last and largest of the Society's genealogical publications appeared. (The Society's first genealogy was published in 1891.) In the 1970s, Doris B. Townshend's *Townshend Heritage* appeared, followed by *The Shepard Families of New England,* in three volumes. The preparation of the Shepard genealogy had a history all its own. Before his death in 1937 Gerald Faulkner Shepard had compiled it for posthumous publication by the Society from the residue of his estate after the decease of other stated heirs. In due time Donald Lines Jacobus undertook the editing as one of his last works, and Professor Leonard W. Labaree of the publications committee saw it through to publication. The board bestowed an honorary life membership on Miss Margaret Ives, whose fine and persevering stenographic work brought the huge publication to completion. Astronaut Alan Shepard wrote, asking that certain data in his part of the family be brought up to date, confirming the Society's original dedication to "current history."

The 1976 Bicentennial was preceded by five years of planning by New Haven's Bicentennial Commission, with considerable assistance from the Historical Society. The Commission acted as a catalyst in motivating community groups to participate in commemorative activities, stressing local events in the Revolution and the development of democratic institutions over the past two centuries. Youth task forces collected "block histories." Area schools, churches and cultural and ethnic groups joined in the advance preparation. Richard Hegel edited the local *Bicentennial Newsletter.* Rollin Osterweis wrote *The New Haven Green and the American Bicentennial. Folio New Haven* featured early maps and views of local scenery. All built up to the statewide observance at Yale Bowl on July 3. The Long Wharf Theatre, the New Haven Symphony and other groups performed. Parades and fireworks had their time-honored place.

The Society's special Bicentennial project, the Eli Whitney gun factory site, finally achieved autonomy as a museum of technology and a potential home for the Olin gun collection. The Bicentennial also focused the Society's interest on two other sites concerned with the British invasion of New Haven in 1779. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Townshend, Jr. were representatives in reconstruction efforts at Black Rock Fort in the Fort Hale area. And Adjutant William Campbell's gravesite in West Haven,

which the Society acquired and marked in 1891, was logically deeded to the West Haven Historical Society in 1977.

During this period scholars read appropriate papers and monographs at 114 Whitney Avenue, and several major exhibitions appeared: *The New England Gun: The First Two Hundred Years; The Completion of Independence in New Haven: Pioneers of Culture and Industry; Shallops, Sloops and Sharpies: A Maritime History of New Haven;* and *A Graphic View of New Haven.* Each was described in an elegant catalogue designed by John O.C. McCrillis.

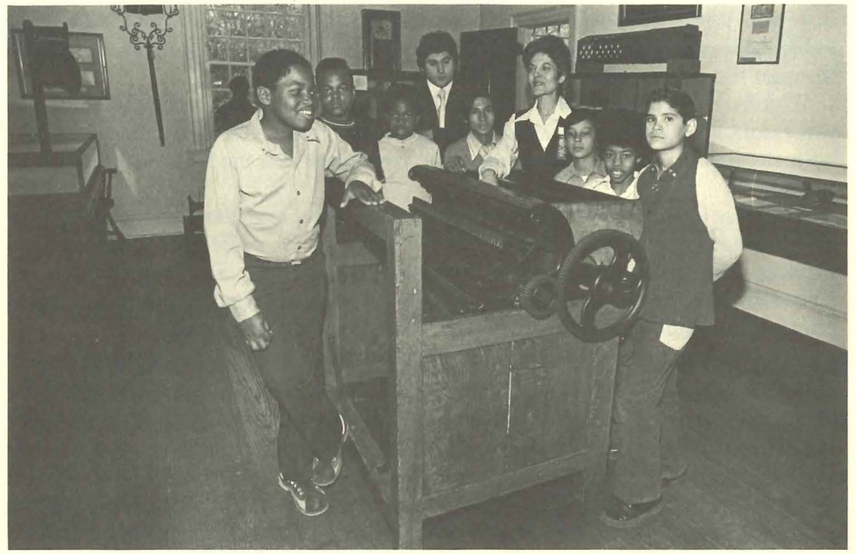
The year 1976 marked a peak in total income for the Society, $197,761, not including a bequest of $60,000. This can be compared with the same total of 1967, amounting to $55,196. Income and membership (1,100) have stabilized at this level under more recent leadership.

In 1978 Mrs. Frank Hepler became the 1st woman elected president. Virginia Hepler's energy and organizing ability since 1965 had made the annual auction and the Colony Shop necessary parts of the Society's program and budget.

In the same year Floyd Mallory Shumway took over the Society's administration as its fourth executive director. Doctor Shumway's credentials could only be described as impeccable. As a Yale graduate with early local family background, he returned to New Haven bringing the skills of scholarship and corporate management. After a position with General Electric and a management consultant partnership, he left the business world to take a doctorate in history at Columbia University as a Ford Foundation New Careers Fellow. His doctoral dissertation, "Early New Haven and Its Leaders," brought an award from the Sons of the American Revolution for excellence in early American history. For some years he remained at Columbia as lecturer, administrator, and associate editor of the John Jay papers. Through his interest in urban history, he served on the Advisory Council of the South Street Seaport, and in the New York City Museum docent training program. In 1972 he contributed "New Haven and Its First Settlers" to the *New Haven Colony Historical Society Journal.*

Currently the president and the executive director combine happily the strengths of the Society as it has emerged in the past two decades. The unselfish dedication of volunteers, added to the historical scholarship and skilled management of a professional staff, has brought a new level of distinction. Stabilization in a new era for the Society is indicated in the increasingly long tenure of the staff. Under Ottilia Koel in the library, Robert Egleston in the museum and Lucinda Burkepile and Amy Hudnall in the education department, professional standards have been enhanced in an atmosphere where directors, staff and volunteers can share in the enterprise as equals, rather than as employers and employees.

In the immediate past, through grants and gifts, the Society has made great strides in the never-ending job of bringing rational order to its manuscript and curatorial collections. A 1980 grant from the New Haven Foundation was received to fund the organization of the photographic collection of 30,000 glass plate negatives and 20,000 original prints and film negatives.



With an expanding education program the Society is realizing its goal "to encourage historical and antiquarian investigation and to disseminate historical information." School children are frequent visitors to the Society's museum.

The concourse of the public has continued to such course offerings as calligraphy, genealogy, stencil design, gravestone rubbing, freehand bronze painting, crewel embroidery and needlework. The Tuesday lunchtime film series has continued to attract a following, with such topics as "The Ethnic Experience." "The Impact of Black Women on New Haven" was a title in another 1980 program.

Once again, the Society is sponsoring the writing of a local history. *New Haven: An Illustrated History* will be written by a committee of experts, under the editorship of Floyd Shumway and Richard Hegel, with photographs from the collection.

The constitution drafted in 1862 at the inspiration of Thomas R. Trowbridge and others specified that the Society should "preserve such traditions as now exist only in the memories of aged persons." This objective has not been forgotten. Two library volunteers in recent months obtained taped interviews from Miss Rachel Trowbridge at her home on Hillhouse Avenue. She reminisced over her long life, going back to the days when she lived downtown, her upbringing with her father and mother at the Skinner-Trowbridge mansion, and how children's attitudes have changed in the decades she has worked as a Sunday School teacher.

Retrospect and Prospect

The New Haven Colony Historical Society has evolved from a small discussion club of scholarly gentlemen into an inclusive organization of people with diversified

historical tastes. The original purpose, "to encourage historical and antiquarian investigation and to disseminate historical information," has remained constant through the twelve decades of its existence.

Eighteen presidents have led the Society: six lawyers, five clergymen, four professors, and four from business management. (Presidents Walker and Starr were both clergymen, but the former was also a professor and the latter was also a book editor.)

Whereas in earlier years the Society took character and identity from its location and prestigious officers, it has become notable for its professionalized staff and services. Professionalization has wrought change from an image which was custodial, introverted and rather passive to one involving a positive teaching function in relation to the entire New Haven regional community.

The future necessarily predicates expansion. If the Society is to pursue its original objective "to collect and preserve such books, pamphlets, newspapers, broadsides, maps, plans, charts, paintings, engravings, lithographs, and other pictorial representations; manuscripts, autograph letters, curiosities and antiquities of every kind as may be connected with or may illustrate the local history of the towns included within the ancient New Haven Colony . . . ," it must have more room. The building at 114 Whitney Avenue is full to overflowing with library and museum materials. Expansion upwards or outwards must finally be faced, or even removal to a larger, newer building.

A larger capital base will also be needed, if only to insure income sufficient to maintain the present level of services, in view of an ever-inflating economy. A steady infusion of new members will continue to be necessary in order to replace attrition. Membership size compares favorably with that of historical societies located in communities of similar size. The current emphasis on inclusiveness is the key to future membership.

The future of the New Haven Colony Historical Society is defined by its function. Times may fade into the past, but history remains in the present to be recalled in the future. Arnold Toynbee has noted that "A student of history will never find himself out of work."

Stephen Dibble, *a member of the New Haven Colony Historical Society, holds graduate degrees in divinity and history. He has written the history of the Society in partial fulfillment of a requirement for the Archival Management and Historical Editing Program of New York University, in which he is a doctoral candidate. He is currently in residence at New Oxford House, an Anglican chaplaincy and study center at Yale University.*

To Learn, to Earn, to Win: The 19th-Century Diary of a New Haven Boy

by Katherine G. Morrissey

In the year 1898, the United States declared war on Spain, American cities and industries continued their rapid growth and a boy named Edward Joseph Morrissey stood on the threshold between youth and adolescence. While the diary of this lad reflects the impact of the Spanish-American War, urbanization and industrialization, it more importantly provides a rare glimpse at the concerns of an immigrant son in the Gilded Age. Young Eddie Morrissey records his successes in school, fights and bicycle races, his failures in finding a full-time job and his general activities as a thirteen-year-old American-Irish Catholic.

The growing city of New Haven serves as the backdrop of these 1898 activities. Shedding its image as the Puritan stronghold of New England, the former Connecticut capital prepared to enter the twentieth century. The substantial headway made by industry and immigrants since the Civil War was evident in its streets and on its skyline. Rabid anti-Catholicism, ethnic prejudice and Anglo-Saxon nativism, while still present, were no longer in the foreground. Nevertheless, distinct ethnic and social groups, including old-stock Yankees, Italians, Germans and Irish, peopled New Haven's wards.

The diary entries reflect these distinctions and reveal an unstated identification with nationality, religion and family. As an Irish-American, Roman Catholic Morrissey, Eddie held secure ties in the dynamic environment of the city. His friends and relatives, like his activities, were connected through these links in a variety of ways. These as yet unchallenged ties were typical for a youth in Eddie's situation as an immigrant son. In another way, however, the boy and his diary are not typical.

Eddie, the son of a blacksmith, rose from an unskilled job as a janitor to the presidency of the New York Furniture Exchange during his lifetime. This sharp upward movement was unusual for immigrant sons. Studies done in two larger cities, Boston and Los Angeles, indicate that for men of Edward Morrissey's generation only two percent demonstrated similar mobility.[1] While it is presumptuous to suggest that a thirteen-year-old's diary is a valid indicator of future success, the concerns of a boy often illustrate the roots of a man's character.

The diary is a unique record. Few similar documents are available for the study of

city youth in industrial America; memoirs compose the majority of such published sources.[2] While the details and explanations of these memoirs make them valuable resources, they lack the immediacy of a primary record. As the product of an active youngster, this diary's entries are understandably cryptic and erratically recorded. Nevertheless, 113 entries exist for a consecutive five-month period.

Edward J. Morrissey was born March 12, 1885 in Thomaston, Connecticut, the first child of two Irish immigrants, John Carroll and Sarah Prendergast Morrissey. His parents, who had married in New Haven the previous year, had arrived in Connecticut separately. At twenty-one, in 1883, Sarah had emigrated alone from Kilkenny, ashamed of her father's bigamous lifestyle. In 1875 John, as the oldest son of a large Tipperary family, had led the way to the United States for his mother, brother and seven sisters. With the exception of two sisters who followed husbands to other cities, the Morrisseys eventually settled in New Haven. By 1898 fifty Morrissey first cousins, including Edward and his three siblings, resided in Connecticut.[3]

New Haven claimed the honor of being the oldest and largest city of Connecticut in 1898, with a population nearing 100,000. Irish immigrants made up one-sixth of this population as the largest foreign nationality group. Immigrants from other countries such as Germany and Italy, although fewer in numbers, were also drawn to the city, which offered factory jobs in the growing industries of locksmithing, gun manufacturing and clockworking.[4]

John Morrissey, after spending only a couple of years working for the railroad in Thomaston and New Hartford, moved his young family back to New Haven, where he took a job as a blacksmith for the Winchester Repeating Arms Company. In his trade the Morrissey family head earned between $15 and $16 a week to support his mother, wife and four children. The year 1898 was a good one financially for the Winchester Company, which received several government arms contracts for the Spanish-American War. The Morrisseys, with John's increased working shifts as well as income from two boarders, probably had little trouble meeting the mortgage payments on their two-story home that year.[5]

As the oldest son of the family, Edward was always on the lookout for ways to earn money. During the year described by the diary he peddled papers, sold soap, eggs and nuts and worked for small businessmen such as the neighborhood grocer. Although he also attended the Winchester grammar school, this was the last year of his formal education. The next year, when he reached fourteen, he was eligible for full-time employment under contemporary federal and state law. Thus, in 1899, Eddie started work at the Whalley Avenue jail as the general cleanup boy in the offices of the Connecticut Chair Company, which commissioned salesmen to sell chairs manufactured in the state prison system. He was employed the following year as a clerk and, in 1901, as the youngest traveling salesman by the same company, covering Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. As a teenager and young adult, Edward worked as a traveling salesman for a number of Connecticut and New

Is Mr. Edward J. Morrissey Our Youngest Traveler? Much discussion has been going the rounds as to the youngest traveling furniture salesman and Mr. Edward J. Morrissey, who travels for the Connecticut Chair Co., seems to be the youngster who has a right to claim the honor. Mr. Morrissey began his business career as office boy with the house he is traveling for when he was fourteen years of age and he is now sixteen. He developed so much natural aptitude for business that he was rapidly pro-

THE YOUNGEST DRUMMER.

moted, first to shipping clerk and then as traveling salesman. He covers successfully Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

If we have any "men" under sixteen who are selling furniture on the road we shall be glad to hear from them. Until then we doff our hats to young Morrissey.

This article on the youthful entrepreneur appeared in a 1902 issue of the trade publication The Furniture World. *(All photos courtesy of John C. Morrissey.)*

York companies, eventually starting his own furniture company based in New York City.[6]

In 1911 Edward married Estelle Caine, the daughter of Irish immigrants living in New Haven, and moved to the upper west side of New York City. The couple had one child, a son named after Edward's father, John Carroll Morrissey. As a young family the Morrisseys moved between New York City, Larchmont, a suburb of New York, and New Haven. The majority of Edward's adult life, however, was spent in New York City, where he was involved in the New York Furniture Exchange as president and director, the Selective Service Board, and a variety of Catholic organizations. In 1971 he and his wife moved to San Francisco, California, where he died in 1978 at the age of 93.[7]

The diary, written eighty years before his death, demonstrates Edward J. Morrissey's eagerness for education, competition and profit, three important elements which also figured prominently in his later success in the business world. These concerns are reflected not only in the entries of the diary but also by the diary itself.

Eddie purchased the clothbound, pocket-sized (2¾" x 6") book for his own use. As a businessman's diary, it is prefaced by thirty pages of printed material including interest calculations, distances from New York, postage rates, astronomical calculations and "Useful Information for Business Men." The final forty-four pages are ruled for notes and bills, cash accounts and expense entries. The markings on these pages indicate that Eddie made use of both of these sections. He recorded his nominal monetary transactions with the concern of a financier.

His diary entries also demonstrate his interest in money and business, whether he was purchasing a dollar's worth of ants for fifty-five cents or getting into the bicycle races for free. He described a suit received as a birthday present only by its price. The amounts of his purchases and earnings were as important to Eddie in his diary as the events of the Spanish-American War.

The results of his school tests and his standing in class were also faithfully recorded. Despite being in his last year of school, he showed a particular interest in arithmetic and reading. His diary includes pages of multiplication and addition practices and mentions visits to the library and Yale Art School. This concern for self-education continued throughout his adult life. As a traveling salesman he carried pocket-sized volumes of Shakespeare, Keats or Dickens to read in trains and strange towns.[8]

Part of his drive in education and money-making came from an enjoyment of competition. This competitive spirit shows through many of the diary entries. Eddie recorded specific grades on exams only when he had done better than the rest of the class. Similarly, the only fights mentioned are winning ones. His participation in the sport of bicycling paints a vivid picture of his determination. In February he noted the start of the "wheeling" season, and he reported the following month that he would get a bicycle in June. After buying the second-hand bike, he described his first faltering attempts at learning how to ride. He gradually improved and started

Left: Eddie (center) at about seven with his parents and younger sisters. Right: Eddie at twenty-six with his bride, Estelle Caine, at Atlantic City, N.J. on June 27, 1911. They had been married the previous day.

recording wins in bicycle races by September. In the back of the book he listed all the boys he had defeated in races.

In the diary of his youth Eddie's ventures in competition, education and profit take place within his identity framework. This framework, structured by his connections to an Irish ancestry, Catholicism and Morrissey surname, altered as Eddie moved into adulthood. While the ties to family and religion stayed tight, Edward loosened the hold of his Irish identification. Unlike his immigrant parents, he saw himself as an American, particularly in his business ventures. His father had kept close connections to his native land through his occupation, location and interests. Edward, as a New York City salesman and businessman, expanded his interests and activities beyond his Irish inheritance.[9]

This diary, then, tells the story of an earlier time. It captures one year of a city boy's activities. It reflects in a larger sense the concerns of the nineteenth-century United States and its people. But it also shows indications of growth and change for the author of the diary, the city and the time in which it was written.

The printed diary has three entries per page, allowing nine lines for each date. The month and year are printed on the top of each page. Each entry space is headed by the day of the week, abbreviated, the date, and the words "Ther." and "Weather." These words are eliminated in this copy unless an entry is made on the temperature or the weather.

Edward J. Morrissey's entries are handwritten in fountain pen or pencil. Capitalization, punctuation and spelling have been left as written. A list of first names, mathematic practice notes and financial tables has been eliminated from this copy. Incomplete entries and entries only on the weather have also been eliminated. Blank pages, because of their frequency, have not been noted. A few slang terms may need clarification: Edward Morrissey uses "wheeling" to refer to bicycling, "coon" as a slang word for a Negro and "stood" to mean passed (as in an exam).

JANUARY 1898

SUN. 2. Worked for F McGarry received 50[10] MON. 24. Weather, Fine Went Anivesary Mass for my "Aunt Maggie."[11] Received my desk and Soap[12]

FEBRUARY

TUES. 15. Weather, Cool Maine blown up in Havana 259 sailors killed Loss $3,000,000 Great excitment[13] THUR. 17. court of inquiry appointed SUN. 20. Ther. ch Weather, Rain No Sunday school on account of storm Six O'clock Mass sold two extra papers[14] MON. 21. Weather, Rain no school Session Sold 10 qt. nuts to M. Estoff for 35¢ Inquiry begun TUES. 22. Weather, Chamlile Bought book 15¢ "Funny Stories." P. Barnum Bought this diary sold to P. O donnell 1 doze Eggs 30¢[15] Went Hyperion to excirve Washington's Birthday[16] WED. 23. Weather, Clear Top pig came out Ran from Ash to Dixwell Ave mintue THUR. 24. Weather, Clear Was hit in the eye by a top Wheeling commence[17] SAT. 26. Ther. T Weather, Fine Fix my wagon Went in the Yale Art School Mr. Longme Bought a dollar of ants for 55¢ SUN. 27. Ther. W Weather, Fine Sold papers Went to 9 o'clock mass & Sunday School

MARCH

TUES. 1. Weather, Clear Went downtown and bought two shirts pink and Blue[18] WED. 2. Weather, Snow & Clear began playing marbles THUR. 3. Weather, Fine fought a coon and licked him FRI. 4. Weather, Snowy had a history examination and stood Posted a letter to BP had a small Language test stood shirt finished SAT. 5. Weather, Snowy Clean the cellar Went to see Wiblur Opera Comp or Living pictures[19] I received a letter for E. Larence exl Church SUN. 6. Weather, Fine peddle papers Went to 7.30 Mass and Sunday school Robert Emmet Birthday Celebration at Grand Opera Home Fitneger[20] MON. 7. Weather, Fine Went to school dug the hole Fifty million dollar bill for national defense introduce in house TUES. 8. Weather, Fine Continuted digging the hole told History marks Bill passed by house WED. 9. Weather, Fine Bill passed by seneate FRI. 11. Weather, Fine language test Went to church at night SAT. 12. Weather, rainy My birthday 13

yrs. old 5.00 suit pair of shoes went downtown going to get bicycle in June SUN. 13. Weather, Fine Went to 9.00 Mass Peddle papers MON. 14. Weather, Clear Went to school THUR. 17. St. Patrick day wore green going to school went to library Book overdue[21] SUN. 20. Weather, Clear Went to 7.30 mass Climbed East Rock John Lynch and T. McGuire[22] Had examton in Sunday school stood 67 FRI. 25. School let out Climbed East Rock and Monument SAT. 26. Went to see John Larence Sullivan Grand Opera house[23] MON. 28. Weather, Fine Clean the cellar and yard Went to 8. oclock mass Maine inquiry report sent to congress TUES. 29. Went to 8 oclock mass Washed the kitchen WED. 30. Weather, Rain Went to 8 oclock mass THUR. 31. Went to 8 oclock mass

APRIL

SUN. 3. Sold papers went to 9 oclock mass TUES. 5. Consul-Gen. Lee recalled SAT. 9. Weather , Fine Got a new pair of shoes. Went to 8 oclock mass. and got Easter water Ask for a job at Umberfields[24] SUN. 10. Weather, threatening Consul Gen Lee leaves Cuba MON. 11. Pres. McKinley asked power to intervene Cuba FRI. 15. Weather, Rainy Did not go to school went with Mrs. Geelan to Wethersfield to see Micheal J.J. Kelley[25] SAT. 16. Seneate declares war 69 to 2[26] SUN. 17. Went to 9 oclock mass [Went to] Sunday school. MON. 18. Weather, Fine Went down stairs to live. Great excitement Congress pass as no war Seneate in session all night Declare war. Congress also pass the Resulotion TUES. 19. Weather, Rain Intervention ordered by congress WED. 20. Resolutions signed by the President ultimative sent to Spain THUR. 21. Minister Woodrift leaves Spain and war begins FRI. 22. Rear Adrimal Sampsons fleet begins blockade The Nashville fires first Shot[27] SAT. 23. The President calls for 125,000 volunteers WED. 27. Montanya Bombarbed

MAY

SUN. 1. Great Victory for Adrimal Dewy at Manila Bay leaves not a man killed 300 11 ships Spanish captured and Ft. Cavite 7 miles from Manila[28] FRI. 6. Weather, Cloudy Went to school SAT. 7. Weather, R-Fine Worked for M. Estoff 50¢ wages all day 7.30 to 90. pm. Met with accident collision with cyclist at 116 Ashmun St. Heavy Atillery starts at niantic[29] SUN. 8. Weather, Rain Peddle papers Went 90 clock Mass No Sunday School on account of Rain TUES. 10. Weather, Fine Gen. Miles starts to cuba from Washington WED. 11. Weather, Rain First Sun Shower this year Engagement between forts at Cardenas and the Gunboats Wilmington and Hudson and torpedo boat Winslow First American killed THUR. 12. Sampsons fleet bombards San Juan Porto Rico THUR. 19. Weather, C. and R Went to 7. oclock mass Eddie Sadie Hat let at in school Tues FRI. 20. Ther. 84 Weather, C and Hot Hottest day in May SAT. 21. Weather, Fine Went Camping to old Race-track Campers—Frank, Edw, Joe

Edward J. Morrissey (seated, left) was surely the youngest furniture salesman in this photo. The picture was taken at the "Old-Timers" Banquet at New York's Hotel Astor on July 26, 1916. Eddie was thirty-one years old that year. To be considered an old-timer, a salesman must have spent at least fifteen years on the road.

McGuire and E.J.M. Yale 1901. defeats Princeton 1901.[30] SUN. 22. Weather, Fine Peddle papers Went to 9 oclock Mass and to Sunday School MON. 23. Weather, Rain Mother and Father with A.O.H. goes to Waterbury State Prade Anna also[31] TUES. 24. The battleship Oregon arrives at Jupiter Fla. after a voyage of 13,000 miles from San Francisco. WED. 25. The president calls second time for 75,000 troops SAT. 28. Weather, Fine played ball Connonordor Shely "bottler" Cerveras fleet in Santiago harbor SUN. 29. Weather, Fine Peddle papers Got sick did not go to mass or Sunday School MON. 30. Weather, Fine. Decoration day. No school. Went to Savin Rock, first time in 98.[32]

JUNE

FRI. 3. Weather, Fine Lieut Hobson sinks collier Merrimac to prevent fleet to escape[33] SAT. 4. Yale defeated by Princeton Score 12-7[34] SUN. 5. peddle papers Went to 9 oclock mass. Anna receives for first time Holy communion Father Fowler receives a Columbia Cycle from Sunday School[35] MON. 6. Weather, Fine Naval reserves goes away[36] TUES. 7. Weather, Fine Made the boat Victor Had examinaion in Arithmetic stood 3rd best 86% Frank goes to

Work WED. 8. Weather, Fine Had a fight with John Gier beat him and hit him in the ear Frank Mc Guire goes working at Winchester[37] THUR. 9. Weather, Fine Help wash and told arithmetic mark Contest with No. 13 FRI. 10. Six hundred marine land at Guantanamo SAT. 11. Weather, Fine Bough a cordory pants cost 90¢ Went to See Ball Game but went to see Bicycle Races at Elm City got in Free. Savepish troop try to drive Americans from there[38] SUN. 12. Weather, Fine & Hot Went to 9'oclock mass Peddle papers MON. 13. Weather, Fine First expedition leaves for Santiago under command of major-Gen. Shafter. WED. 15. Weather, Fine Bertie Kelley gets a wheel Frank McGarriy gets a wheel[39] THUR. 16. Weather, Fine Ringling Bros. circus comes I saw the parade.[40] me and Frank McGarrity goes to buy a wheel we do not get it till the 17th for they have not it together. FRI. 17. Weather, Fine I buy Frank McGarry's wheel and bell for $20.00 Try to learn how to ride a wheel that night SAT. 18. Weather, Fine Did not ride wheel at all went down town and bought toe clips 10¢ a pair SUN. 19. Weather, Fherentng Sold papers Went to 9 oclock Mass On this day I learn how to ride a wheel and turn arround fell 4 times. MON. 20. Weather, Fine I fought a nigger nose bleed he got. Mr. F. Bell dies from circulation of blood at his home TUES. 21. Weather, Fine Received a letter from Supt. Miss Cassidy to make arrangements for funeral WED. 22. Weather, Fine & Rain Attended Mr. Bells funeral Yale, Cornell and Harvard race. postponed till 12.30 to-morrow The army land at Daranari THUR. 23. Weather, Fine Yale, Cornell and Harvard Race Cornell won Yale second Harvard. Last.[41] FRI. 24. Weather, Fine Had Arithmetic test stood learn how to start and turn around on wheel Rough Riders at Les Duasima SAT. 25. Weather, Fine Rode wheel all around and went down town to see Edward Dohmey. said he will live went on wheel SUN. 26. Weather, Fine Went to Holy Communion Sunday School closes for summer Went on Capel St. 4 times on the asphalt. MON. 27. Weather, Fine Had Spelling test stood TUES. 28. Weather, Rain had a language test stood THUR. 30. Weather, Fine Stood 15 rank promoted to No. 16 Winchester School[42] school closes I went to Savin Rock on wheel

JULY

FRI. 1. Weather, Fine U.S. army attacks on Spaniards at Santiago, capturing and holding enemys water SUN. 3. Ther. 93° Weather, Fine Went to 7 oclock Mass Went to the Rock Hottest day yet Cerra's fleet Destroyed by Schely MON. 4. Weather, Fine & Rain Got up seen big fire at 12 oclock. No work in Winchesters Fourth of July parade good. No fireworks raining at time First expedition arrives at Maniala TUES. 5. Weather, Fine Went to the fire works which was beautiful WED. 6. Weather, Fine Hobson and men exchanged Rear Adrimel Dewey puts Irene out ofof Subig bay with Raleigh and Concord FRI. 8. Weather, Fine Went to the bycycle races Collett breaks record 1.51 time[43] SAT. 9. Weather, Fine Painted bed red Went to cold springs Lillian

Smith killed at Pawson park. accident SUN. 10. Weather, Fine Peddle papers Went to 9 oclock mass. THUR. 14. Painted doors over again and oiled new Room SAT. 16. Weather, Fine Santiago Surrenders to W. Shafter[44] TUES. 19. Weather, Fine Front Door stained SUN. 24. Weather, Fine Went to Savin Rock and then to Mt. Carmel with R. Fitzgerld in the afternoon[45] TUES. 26. Weather, Fine My mother elect Treasure of the DOE Div. 3 A.O.H.[46]

AUGUST

SAT. 27. Weather, Fine Went to the country or Torrington arrived at 12 oclock[47] SUN. 28. Weather, Fine Went out on farm. MON. 29. Weather, Fine Picked Blackberries. Killed 24 Frogs TUES. 30. Weather, Fine eat frogs hind legs WED. 31. Weather, Fine Returned home from farm arrived home at 12. oclock

SEPTEMBER

TUES. 6. Return to school TUES. 20. Weather, Fine Won a Ring in a bicycle Race at Highwood Beat R. Fitzgerld + W. Vordorsbaum time 3.00 for 5 miles

OCTOBER

FRI. 14. Weather, Windy Won a race Prize 1 Bell No School Convention Final 7.20[48] SAT. 15. Weather, Fine Races at Elm City Park A Pie wagon ran away[49]

MEMORANDA[50]

On February the 25 1898 stood 88 the highest in the room Room No 14 Stood 12th rank in September 1897. 8th in October and 18th in November, Dec and Jan. 13th 1897-8, February 11th March, April 15th May June. promoted into Room No. 16 Age 12- and 13[51] To tell Easter Sunday. the first new moon after March the 21st

Births[52]

Edw. J Morrissey born 1885 March the 12th Mary Morrissey b. 1886 the 5th of May Anna born 1889 19 of Feb. Sadie March 25th Easter Sunday 1891 William, Mon. 3, Nov. 1896 Aunt Maggie died on Jan. 23 1896.

New Haven June 15 '98

Thirty days after date I promise to pay to the order of Frank McGuire, Eight 54/100 Dollars, value received at National Bank.

Eddie J. Morrissey

$83 54/100 Promisary Note

Arrested Edward Fruin W. McLauglin by D. Donnelly Monday July 25th for stealing paint brushes on Whiteny Ave. and D. Wally[53]

NOTES

1. Stephen Thernstrom, *The Other Bostonians: Poverty and Progress in the American Metropolis, 1880-1970* (Cambridge, Mass., 1973), pp. 238, 220-61. *New Haven Register,* April 28, 1978.

2. Notable among the published sources is Dorothy Richardson, "The Long Day: The Story of a New York Working Girl" in *Women at Work,* William L. O'Neill, ed. (New York, 1975). This detailed memoir of obscure origins was first published in 1905.

Secondary studies of youth during this period are more numerous. See, for example, Joseph F. Kett, "Adolescence and Youth in Nineteenth-Century America" in *The Family in History,* Theodore K. Rabb and Robert I. Rothberg, eds. (New York, 1971); John and Virginia Demos, "Adolescence in Historical Perspective" in *The American Family in Social Historical Perspective,* Michael Gordon, ed. (New York, 1973).

3. John Morrissey first lived in Litchfield, Connecticut, where he worked on a farm. The Rev. M. Walsh to Anna Morrissey Ward, September 10, 1935; Leroy Ward to Katherine Morrissey, March 2, 1973; Anna Ward to John C. Morrissey, undated, 1962; John C. Morrissey to Katherine Morrissey, May 26, 1979, author's personal papers. Federal Manuscript Census, *Twelfth Census of the United States,* New Haven County, New Haven City, June 9, 1900.

4. U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Twelfth Census of the United States: Population, Part 1* (Washington, D.C., 1901), pp. 432, clxxviii. Rollin G. Osterweis, *Three Centuries of New Haven, 1638-1938* (New Haven, 1964), p. 388.

5. The Morrissey home was located at 116 Ashmun Street. John worked for Winchester for more than twenty-five years before he retired. He originally moved his family back to New Haven, according to Edward J. Morrissey's son, "impelled either by the need to get work or by a desire to be near persons they knew." Adele Webster, the daughter of Edward J. Morrissey's younger sister, Sadie, concurs with this opinion. John C. Morrissey to Katherine Morrissey, May 26, 1979; Mrs. Edward P. Webster to John and Eileen Morrissey, January 8, 1980; interview with Edward J. Morrissey, March 14, 1975, author's personal papers. *New Haven Directory* (New Haven, 1886-1898). U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Twelfth Census of the United States, Special Reports: Employees and Wages* (Washington, D.C., 1903), p. 243. Osterweis, *Three Centuries,* p. 378. New Haven *Evening Register,* March 16, 22, 23, 25, 1898. Federal Manuscript Census, *Twelfth Census of the United States,* June 9, 1900.

6. The old Whalley Avenue jail is currently being demolished for a new juvenile justice complex. *New Haven Register,* January 3, 1980. Albert E. Van Dusen, *Connecticut* (New York, 1961), p. 255. *New Haven Register,* April 29, 1978. John C. Morrissey to Katherine Morrissey, May 26, 1979, *New Haven Directory, 1906-1911.*

7. *New Haven Register,* April 29, 1978. John C. Morrissey to Katherine Morrissey, May 26, 1979.

8. John C. Morrissey to Katherine Morrissey, May 26, 1979.

9. For a discussion of the Irish inheritance of Americans of Irish ancestry see William V. Shannon, *The American Irish* (New York, 1963).

10. Frank McGarry was the owner of McGarry's, a grocery and meat market at 46 Bristol Street. John C. Morrissey to Katherine Morrissey, May 18, 1979, author's personal papers. *New Haven Directory, 1898,* p. 414.

11. Aunt Maggie, Sarah Prendergast Morrissey's younger sister, died in New Haven on January 23, 1896. Leroy Ward to Katherine Morrissey, March 2, 1973, author's personal papers.

12. According to John C. Morrissey, Eddie sold soap on a commission basis as a boy. The desk was received as the commission for selling the soap. John C. Morrissey to Katherine Morrissey, May 18, 1979.

13. This entry marks the first of many detailing the events of the Spanish-American War. Sensational "yellow" presses throughout the United States kept the events of the war before the public. Eddie followed the war with interest through the local newspapers, occasionally backdating his entries to correspond with the date the events took place. The disputed explosion of the U.S. battleship *Maine* in Havana Harbor helped to precipitate the ten weeks of fighting.

Literature on the Spanish-American War is plentiful. Although ten years old, Richard H. Miller's excellent bibliographical essay "American Imperialism in 1898: The Quest for National Fulfillment" (New York, 1970), in the *Wiley Problems in American History* series, offers myriad sources. Fred Freidel, *The*

Splendid Little War (Boston, 1958), Marshall Everett, ed., *Exciting Experiences in our Wars with Spain and the Filipinos* (Chicago, 1900) and Charles H. Brown, *The Correspondents' War* (New York, 1967) have been useful for the purposes of this article.

14. The Morrisseys, as members of a predominantly Irish parish, attended St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, still located on Hillhouse Avenue, New Haven. New Haven *Evening Register,* March 1, 1898.

Eddie, like many other New Haven boys, would go to the newspaper printing office to buy Sunday papers to sell. He usually sold them around his neighborhood and in front of St. Mary's Church between masses. John C. Morrissey to Katherine Morrissey, May 18, 1979.

15. Patrick O'Donnell, a cousin of Edward Morrissey, later worked in the maintenance department at Yale University. John C. Morrissey to Katherine Morrissey, May 18, 1979.

Eddie probably made a good profit on this sale, since the day's paper showed eggs advertised for 19¢ a dozen at D.M. Welch & Son Groceries and 17¢ a dozen at the New Haven Public Market. New Haven *Evening Register,* February 22, 1898.

16. The Hyperion, one of three New Haven theaters, was located downtown at 1030 and 1032 Chapel Street. The Washington's Birthday exercises were held in the afternoon and included patriotic speeches by politicians and others and music by Fichtl's Orchestra. New Haven *Evening Register,* February 22, 1898; Osterweis, *Three Centuries,* p. 347; *New Haven Directory, 1898,* pp. 770, 945.

17. Wheeling, or bicycling, was a popular sport in the 1890s. Frequent ads in the New Haven newspapers showed bicycle models selling for $25 to $125. Both professional and amateur races were held in New Haven at Elm City Park. Bicycle clubs, such as the New Haven Cycling Club, sponsored many of these races, which offered cash or trophy awards. Osterweis, *Three Centuries,* p. 382; New Haven *Evening Register,* February 16, June 30, 1898.

18. Eddie most likely bought the shirt pieces at one of the downtown clothing stores for his mother to sew together. See entry for Friday, March 4.

19. The Wilbur Opera Company and Living Pictures played a two o'clock matinee at the Hyperion for 10¢ a seat. New Haven *Evening Register,* March 4, 1898.

20. The Wolfe Tone Club sponsored the evening birthday memorial for Robert Emmet, the famous Irish patriot, at the Grand Opera House. The Hon. James Fitzgerald, judge of the Court of General Sessions, New York City, was the principal speaker." . . . the house was crowded and the audience was enthusiastic." New Haven *Evening Register,* March 5, 7, 1898.

21. The first free public library in New Haven had been established by act of the Connecticut House of Representatives twelve years earlier in 1886. Connecticut, Congress, House, *An Act Amending the Charter of the City of New Haven,* January sess., 1886, House Bill No. 292.

22. A park was established around East Rock, one of two prominent bluffs located within the New Haven city limits, in 1880. The Soldiers' Monument, constructed on the rock in 1887, honored New Haven men who had died in wars. Osterweis, *Three Centuries,* pp. 333-34.

23. The Big Vaudeville Company and John L. Sullivan gave matinee and evening performances at the Grand Opera House. John Lawrence Sullivan, the famous American Irish prize fighter, toured the country in plays such as *Honest Hearts and Willing Hands* and *Uncle Tom's Cabin* after he lost his heavyweight title in 1892. Shannon, *American Irish,* pp. 101, 95-102; New Haven *Evening Register,* March 26, 1898.

24. Umberfields, a fancy goods store owned by Dennis Umberfield, was located at 794 Chapel Street. *New Haven Directory, 1898,* p. 701.

25. Mrs. Ellen Geelan, a widow, moved in with the Morrisseys at 116 Ashmun Street in 1898. Wethersfield, Connecticut is located outside of Hartford, thirty-two miles north of New Haven. *New Haven Directory, 1897,* p. 234; *New Haven Directory, 1898,* pp. 245, 840.

26. After the sinking of the *Maine,* public opinion favored a declaration of war. President William McKinley sent a message to Congress advocating independence for Cuba on April 11. (See entry for April 11). The House of Representatives responded by sponsoring a resolution recognizing the independence of Cuba from Spain. The Senate passed an amended version of the House resolution 69 to 2 on April 16 and sent it back to the House for debate. Congress finally passed the Cuban resolution on April 18 after an all-night session. While most Americans recognized its passage as a war challenge to Spain, the United States did not officially declare war until April 25. The declaration of war was made retroactive to April 21. See also entries for April 18, 21.

27. The U.S. gunboat *Nashville* captured the Spanish merchantman *Buena Ventura* while enroute from Key West to Havana.

28. Admiral Dewey's celebrated naval victory at Manila Bay in the Philippines represented the first significant engagement of the war.

29. The First Heavy Artillery Company left New Haven for Camp Haven at Niantic, Connecticut on May 7, 1898. The company joined the First Regiment, one light artillery and one heavy artillery batteries there. These Connecticut regiments never saw action in the war. Osterweis, *Three Centuries,* pp. 377-78; Van Dusen, *Connecticut,* pp. 259-60.

30. The undefeated Yale freshman (class of 1901) baseball team defeated the Princeton freshman team at the Yale Field. New Haven *Evening Register,* March 21, 1898.

31. John and Sarah Morrissey were longtime members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (A.O.H.), an Irish fraternal organization. Waterbury, Connecticut, a town located 22 miles northwest of New Haven within New Haven County, was the site of an A.O.H. statewide convention and parade. Shannon, *American Irish,* p. 126; John C. Morrissey to Katherine Morrissey, May 18, 1979; *New Haven Directory, 1898,* pp. 823-34, 840.

32. Savin Rock, a popular shore resort which included both a bathing beach and an amusement park, was located in West Haven, Connecticut. Electric streetcars, first used in New Haven in 1892, ran out to the resort from the New Haven Green every few minutes during the summer. May 30 was the opening day of the 1898 season. New Haven *Evening Register,* May 30, 1898; Osterweis, *Three Centuries,* pp. 335, 349; John C. Morrissey to Katherine Morrissey, May 18, 1979.

33. Rear Admiral Pascual Cervera's Spanish fleet, moored in Santiago Harbor, was blockaded by U.S. Commodore Schley and Admiral Sampson (see entry for May 28). In a much-publicized attempt to block the channel entrance, Lieutenant Richmond P. Hobson sank the old collier *Merrimac.* Despite the fact that Hobson failed to block the whole entrance as planned, he became a stateside hero for his attempt.

34. This varsity baseball game was played on the Yale Field. New Haven *Evening Register,* June 4, 1898.

35. Father J.D. Fowler, a retiring St. Mary's Dominican priest, was presented with a $100 purse and a Columbia bicycle by the Sunday School. Fowler, who had been in charge of the Sunday School, left New Haven to take a new pastoral appointment in Ohio. New Haven *Evening Register,* June 6, 1898.

36. The First Division, Naval Battalion, C.N.G. and Engineer Division left for Camp Haven escorted from the green by the militia, Foot Guard and Horse Guard. ". . . the parade was the most brilliant one New Haven has seen for many days . . . a great patriotic display." New Haven *Evening Register,* June 6, 1898.

37. Winchester Repeating Arms Company had a number of factory buildings in New Haven on Winchester Avenue and employed 3,000 people in 1898, including Eddie's father, John Carroll Morrissey, and Frank McGuire, who helped support his widowed mother, Bridget. His father, James McGuire, had died in the 1880s. New Haven *Evening Register,* March 22, 1898; *New Haven Directory, 1880-1897; New Haven Directory, 1898,* pp. 421 651, 871; Osterweis, *Three Centuries,* p. 378.

38. The New Haven Cycling Club, organized on May 1, 1898, sponsored the Elm City Park races on June 11. New Haven *Evening Register,* June 13, 1898; *New Haven Directory, 1898,* p. 816.

Marines, landed at Guantanamo Bay, forty miles east of Santiago, to protect the blockade vessels sent for coaling, engaged in the first land fighting of the war. See also entry for June 10.

39. Frank McGarry was the son and namesake of the owner of McGarry Bros. grocery store. John C. Morrissey to Katherine Morrissey, May 18, 1979.

40. The 9:30 a.m. Ringling Brothers Circus parade led the way to the Elm City Park circus grounds. ". . . it was a great parade and the steam calliope nearly burst its throat saluting the college boys." New Haven *Evening Register,* June 16, 1898.

41. The college crew race was held at Derby, Connecticut, 10 miles outside of New Haven. *New Haven Directory, 1898,* p. 840.

42. The Winchester School, a New Haven public grammar school, was located two blocks from the Morrissey home on 68 Gregory Street. The school was named for Oliver Winchester, former governor and founder of Winchester Repeating Arms Company. John C. Morrissey to Katherine Morrissey, May 18, 1979; *New Haven Directory, 1898,* pp. 651, 767; *New Haven Register,* February 27, 1916.

43. Amateur George H. Collett, who worked in New Haven as a clerk, won five of the Elm City Park bicycle races. Collett set a new record for a paced mile, breaking the old record by .06 second. New Haven *Evening Register,* July 9, 1898; *New Haven Directory, 1898,* p. 142.

44. The surrender of Santiago to Major-General William R. Shafter ended fighting on Cuba. Although fighting continued on Puerto Rico, peace negotiations were soon underway. Shafter had arrived with the first expedition from Tampa on June 20.

45. Mt. Carmel is part of Hamden, a town north of New Haven.

46. Sarah Morrissey was elected treasurer of the Daughters of Erin, an auxiliary society of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, to replace the recently deceased Miss Moore in a special meeting held at the Elks Hall. New Haven *Evening Register,* July 26, 1898.

47. Torrington, a Litchfield County community forty-four miles from New Haven, was the site of the farm where Eddie's aunt Margaret Morrissey Friday and her family lived. Margaret, John Carroll Morrissey's older sister, had married a German immigrant, Henry Freitag, who changed his name to Friday. The New Haven Morrisseys frequently visited the Fridays and their eleven children. Leroy Ward to Katherine Morrissey, March 2, 1973; Anna Ward to John C. Morrissey, undated; John C. Morrissey to Katherine Morrissey, May 18, 1979, author's personal papers. *New Haven Directory, 1898,* p. 840.

48. School was not held on Friday, October 14 due to the 52nd Annual Meeting of the State Teachers Association. New Haven *Evening Register,* October 14, 1898.

49. Amateur and professional bicycle races began at 2 o'clock. New Haven *Evening Register,* October 15, 1898.

50. On a number of pages in this section are multiplication and addition practices. As a teenager Eddie taught himself bookkeeping and spent hours practicing adding figures two and three columns at a time. John C. Morrissey to Katherine Morrissey, May 26, 1979. Three pages of financial transactions listing egg and paper sales are also recorded.

51. There were sixteen rooms at Winchester School in 1898. May Bauman was in charge of room 14, while Julia Smith and Jessie E. Pierson shared responsibility for room 16. School was in session for five hours, from 9 to 12 in the morning and from 2 to 4 in the afternoon. *New Haven Directory, 1898,* pp. 767, 799.

52. Mary Ellen Morrissey died in 1888. Anna Margaret married Leroy Ward and had four children. Sarah Agnes, the only surviving Prendergast-Morrissey child, married Ellsworth Horton and had three children. She was born on March 29, 1891 and now lives in Royal Oak, Michigan. William John married Betty Rozic and had one child. Leroy Ward to Katherine Morrissey, March 2, 1973; Webster to John and Eileen Morrissey; Byron Horton to John C. Morrissey, December 30, 1979, author's personal papers.

53. These friends and bicycling companions of Eddie Morrissey were arrested by Police Detective Henry J. Donnelly. *New Haven Directory, 1898,* p. 187.

Katherine G. Morrissey *is the granddaughter of Edward Joseph Morrissey. Although a native of San Francisco, Ms. Morrissey earned her B.A. from Yale in 1978 and is now a graduate student in American studies there. In choosing a college, she followed in the footsteps of her father, John C. Morrissey, Yale Class of 1937, now a San Francisco attorney. As a boy, Mr. Morrissey lived in New Haven, at 187 Mansfield Street.*

Tax-Free Life Income Plan Will Benefit Society

A Pooled Income Fund has been established by a local bank, serving as a receptacle for deferred gifts to the New Haven Foundation. Donors contemplating a bequest to the New Haven Foundation for whatever purposes are encouraged to consider instead a capital gift to this Fund, which will yield income to the donor for his or her lifetime before reverting to the Foundation.

A long-time friend of the New Haven Colony Historical Society recently furnished generous future support for the Society in this way, transferring capital to the Pooled Income Fund for the eventual benefit of the Society via the New Haven Foundation. He, meanwhile, enjoys the income, while taking advantage of special tax benefits under current IRS regulations.

These benefits can be explained to anyone interested in helping the Society with a future gift of endowment, by myself or Board members Charles Kingsley and Henry H. Townshend, Jr.

Brooks Shepard, Jr.
Chairman, Development Committee

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